OPINION / A11

Randy David: 'Milenyo,' through the billboards, revealed the bigger crisis we face—our growing inability to form a government that can unite us for collective action

SPORTS / A23

UST Tigers maul
Ateneo Eagles, forge rubber match for UAAP title tomorrow

TALK OF THE TOWN / A12

Thaksin's spectacular rise
and fall: Two articles that put in perspective the military coup that ended the rule of the tycoon-turned-politician

GMA foes 'powerless,' thanks to 'Milenyo'

By Norman Bordadora

THANKS TO THE LUzon-wide blackout caused by Typhoon "Milenyo," President Macapagal-Arroyo's most vocal critics were literally rendered

GMA FOES/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, October 1, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 295 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Gonzalez: Billboards part of free speech

By Armand N. Nocum and Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT JUST REMOVE OR ban giant billboards in Metro Manila because these structures are part of the right to free speech, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

What the government can do, according to

GONZALEZ/ A6

Bicol damage extensive

Devastation overwhelms GMA; death toll rising

By Bobby Labalan and Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. *in Manila*

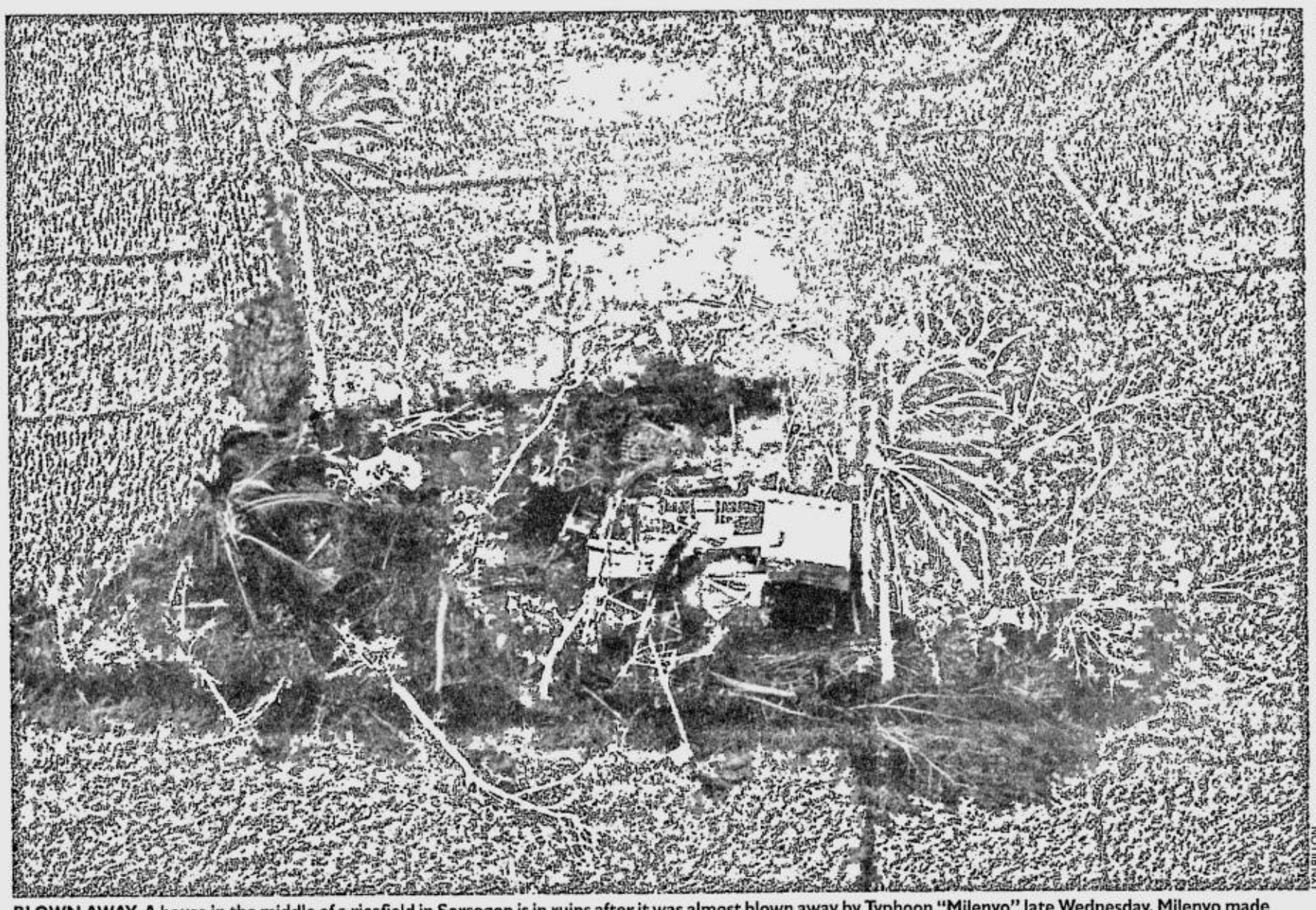
SORSOGON CITY—IT WAS IN Sorsogon yesterday where President Macapagal-Arroyo saw what the fury of Typhoon "Milenyo" had truly wrought. And she was overwhelmed.

"She was gravely concerned at what she saw and she was discomfited," was how Albay Rep. Joey Salceda described Ms Arroyo's reaction when she inspected devastated areas in Sorsogon two days after Milenyo pummeled a wide swath of the country (*Photo on Page A2*).

Over 80 people were killed in the wake of Milenyo's ferocious strike and damage to crops and property in seven affected regions could run into the billions of pesos, officials said.

The 13th typhoon or storm to hit the country this year also left towns, cities and entire provinces in darkness, and many areas were

BICOL/ A6



LYN RILLON

BLOWN AWAY. A house in the middle of a ricefield in Sorsogon is in ruins after it was almost blown away by Typhoon "Milenyo" late Wednesday. Milenyo made landfall in the Bicol region, which bore the brunt of its strong winds, before roaring toward Metro Manila and out into the South China Sea.

Metro power fully restored today—Meralco

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA ELECTRIC CO. HAS UNtil today to comply with the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo to fully restore power in blackout-plagued Metro Manila.

According to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Meralco president Jesus Francisco made the commitment during the meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council at 10 a.m. yesterday—that the power firm would have all the lights back on in the metropolis beginning at midnight last night.

Francisco said at a press conference at 8 a.m. that in its franchise area, Meralco had restored power 100 percent in the northern area (from Malabon to Balintawak), 60 percent in the central area (from Balintawak to Alabang), and 47 percent in the southern area (Alabang to Batangas and Quezon provinces).

On Friday, the President ordered Meralco to raise its restoration target from 60 percent to 80 percent—a task the power firm apparently failed to accomplish because of the difficulties it faced in cutting through tree trunks and branches blocking fallen electric poles.

Francisco said power restoration efforts had been hobbled by the slow pace of clearing operations, even with supplementary forces from the 51st Engineering Brigade under Gen. Delfin Bangit.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo was growing impatient over the fact that two days after the devastating sweep of Typhoon "Milenyo," large portions of the country's capital region were still in darkness.

"She is concerned about the impact of a prolonged power shutdown on businesses, health activities, households and schools in the affected areas," Bunye said.

Apart from the protracted blackout, the President was also worried that the delay in raising downed electric poles would lead to more thefts of the copper wires in the transmission cables.

She had ordered the police and military as well as local government officials to help secure the fallen power lines from thieves.

At the NDCC meeting, Ms Arroyo complained about how Metro Manila residents had been kept in the dark on when power would be restored in their areas.

She demanded to know why there was no hourly update on power restoration schedules, and ordered government broadcast facilities to perform this public service.

Francisco said Meralco had been making hourly reports since the lights went out on Thursday but that he was not sure whether these were being aired regularly by private media outlets.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said a heightened information campaign would ease the panic of Metro Manila residents, some of whom had resorted to stocking up on basic goods as well as diesel fuel to power their generators.

The National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said the Luzon power grid was operating at 60 percent of its normal load as of 11 a.m. yesterday.

A bulletin issued by Transco said the Meralco franchise areas had had 55 percent of its power restored, although utility officials put it at 60 percent.

Meralco vice president Elpi Cuna said that as of yesterday morning, complete restoration had been achieved in northern Metro Manila and Bulacan; 59

METRO POWER/ A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

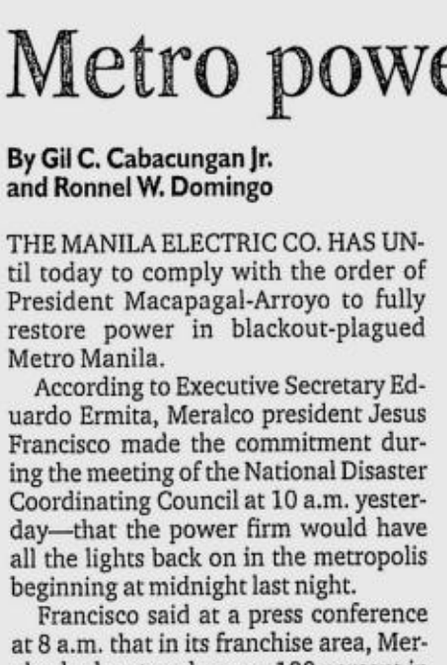
Jolina Magdangal talks about marriage

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

Nina: The R 'n' B princess is now a queen
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Kitchen wizardry
AT HOME / E1

Mathematics of the Middle Kingdom
LIFESTYLE /D1



MIKA is a happy dog as she stands by new guardian Annabelle Marquez in Makati City. RAY LEYESA/CONTRIBUTOR

WORLD ANIMAL DAY

Center shelters homeless pets

By Marlet D. Salazar

(Today, animal welfare groups celebrate World Animal Day with animal blessings, dog shows and free rabies shots and veterinary consultations in selected venues.)

"HANNY IS ONE OF THE LONELIEST residents of the shelter."

This was how Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) volunteer Sherwin Castillo described Hanny, a dog abandoned by his human companions. The mongrel, estimated to be 6-7 years old, was left at the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC) in Quezon City.

The humans told the staff they would run some errands and come back for the dog.

Yeah, right.

To this day, Hanny is still waiting. He has this far-away, expectant look in his eyes. He is one dog in search of a good home.

Mika, another sweet and docile mongrel, was loitering in the streets when she was rescued by volunteers of Compassion and Responsibility for Animals (CARA). She has found a new home in San Miguel Village, Makati City, under the care of Annabelle Marquez and her family.

Marquez chose to adopt an adult mongrel because "it is rewarding." She said, "you're giving a home to a dog (or a cat) that really needs it."

Marquez and her father visited CARA's Yasmin Jadwani, whose house serves as a foster home for rescued animals.

Father and daughter picked out Mika because she was the most gentle of all the dogs they were shown.

Mika's history, however, remains unknown. The dog was probably abandoned, Marquez said. "She doesn't look like a stray because she's so used to people."

Marquez's search for an animal companion led her to CARA's web site at www.caraphil.org.

"I initially wanted a purebred puppy like all first-time dog owners," said the 18-year-old AB Literature student at De La Salle University. "I did some research and found out that puppies are a lot of work."

Marquez said she didn't have much time to house-train a puppy and she didn't want to pass on the responsibility to her parents, her grandparents, not even the house help.

CENTER/ A4

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/09/30/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Nursing test retake order stands'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Jerome Aning

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S ORDER FOR a partial retake of the tainted 2006 nursing licensure examinations stays despite a pending case in the Court of Appeals, according to Dante Ang, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

"As of this moment, the President has not changed her mind. The President's stand is for a retake of Tests III and V," Ang said in a phone interview.

Ang made the statement after Malacañang appeared to backtrack on the President's decision to order a retake of the parts of the June exams affected by the leak of test questions.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang was not taking final action until the Court of Appeals resolved various petitions seeking a reexamination and the invalidation of the oaths taken by the board passers.

Ang said it was "within the powers of the executive [branch] to come up with its own decision" in order to restore the integrity of the nursing profession and the licensure exams.

Ang heads the task force that investigated the reported test leaks. He confirmed that he was one of the Cabinet officials who recommended a retake of Tests III and V during a Cabinet meeting last Tuesday.

But he said it was Labor Secretary Arturo Brion who convinced the Cabinet to take the option of a retake of Tests III and V involving medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing subjects.

According to Ang, Brion said a retake of only the portions affected by the leakage would be enough to restore the integrity of the nursing profession and licensure exams.

"My position is if the system is flawed, anybody who comes out of it is questionable and under a cloud of doubt," Ang said.

But Senators Richard Gordon and Rodolfo Biazon said Malacañang should wait for the decision of the CA.

"Out of respect for the court they should not make a decision ahead of the ruling because that would be contemptuous behavior," said Gordon, who authored the resolution which prompted the Senate civil service committee to investigate the test leak scandal.

Gordon's position was that a retake be required only for the clients of review centers in Baguio City and Metro Manila which benefited from the leaked test questions.

Requiring all candidates to retake the exams would be unfair to those who did not benefit from the leak, he said.

Various professional nursing groups, including the University of Sto. Tomas College of Nursing, the League of Concerned Nurses and the Binuklod na Samahan ng mga Student Nurses, last month filed a petition asking the appellate court to order a retake.

They were able to obtain a CA order stopping the oath-taking of board passers ordered by the Professional Regulation Commission. They also asked the CA to invalidate the oaths that were given before the court order was handed down.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye explained that while the President was standing firm on a retake, "We are constrained from immediate action by the pending cases before the court."

"But we will not abandon our resolve to settle this issue once and for all, under the rule of law and the public interest," said Bunye.

"The President has expressed her desire for a retake as the only way we can redeem the integrity of the nursing licensure exam as well as the overall reputation of our professional health care workers," he said.

The Department of Labor and Employment yesterday said it may ask the national government to subsidize the funding for the retake of the nursing board exams if it should push through.

Brion said he would meet with PRC officials to discuss the nursing exam controversy as well as measures to maintain the integrity of the professional licensure exams being administered by 43 professional boards under the commission.

When the controversy first broke, the PRC argued against a retake, saying it was convinced that only 3,000 out of the 17,000 who sat for the exam last June were able to gain access to the leaked test questions.

Brion sought to assure the PRC boards that the executive order placing the commission under the DOLE did not mean that the the department would be controlling the operations of the commission.

"We will only provide guidance and monitor [their] operations for the Office of the President but not control them," he explained.

The individual boards were created by law and function independently as examination-givers and judges of administrative cases lodged against licensed professionals. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

US gives $100,000 for Milenyo victims

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

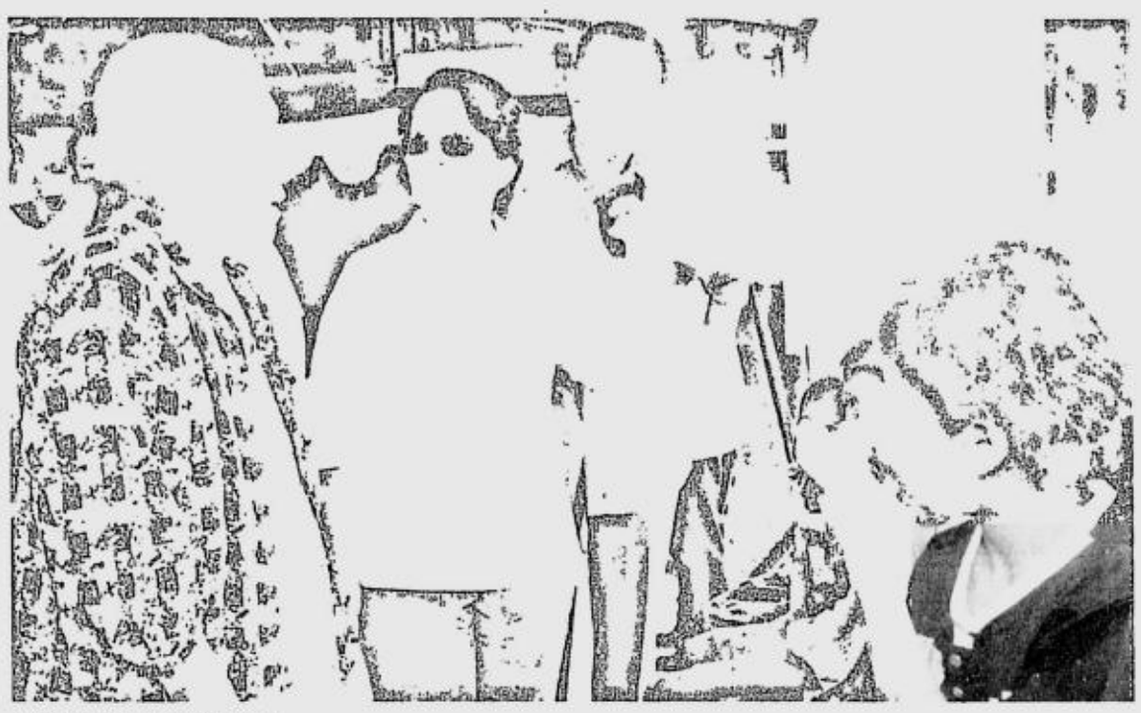
THE UNITED STATES GAVE THE Philippine National Red Cross a $100,000 donation to help victims of Typhoon "Milenyo" in Metro Manila and other areas devastated by the calamity.

Sen. Richard Gordon said US Ambassador Kristie Kenney informed him yesterday about the $100,000 (about P5 million) cash donation for relief operations.

Gordon, PNRC chair, said the donation would be distributed in the form of relief goods, medicines and "starter kits" of utensils, cooking pots, pans and blankets for families who had lost their homes and belongings during the typhoon.

The senator said Kenney extended the US government's condolences to the families of the fatalities in the strongest typhoon to hit Metro Manila in 11 years. Milenyo left a trail of devastation in many parts of Luzon and the Visayas, and a death toll exceeding 70.

Gordon said the Red Cross has deployed volunteers for rescue operations in different areas such as Cavite, Laguna and Rizal where people and property were swept away by floods.



SAD REALIZATION

President Macapagal-Arroyo talks to typhoon victims at the Sorsogon City pier yesterday. According to Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, the President realized for the first time the full extent of the devastation wrought by Typhoon Milenyo when she visited Sorsogon, where the damage to crops and property was much worse than initially estimated.

LYN RILLON

Southern Luzon, Visayas to remain wet

TYPHOON "MILENYO" HAS left the country but southern Luzon and the Visayas will still be wet and dreary today as a result of the inter-tropical convergence zone affecting both areas, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that no weather disturbance has so far been sighted near the Philippine area of responsibility after Milenyo made its way out of the archipelago over the weekend.

In its weather bulletin issued at 5 p.m. yesterday, Pagasa said southern Luzon, the Visayas and eastern Mindanao would have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Moderate to occasionally strong winds from the southwest and south will prevail over the western sections of Luzon and western Visayas. The coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to occasionally rough, Pagasa said.

Meanwhile, light to moderate winds blowing from the northeast and northwest are expected over the rest of Luzon and coming from the southwest and west over the Visayas and Mindanao with slight to moderate seas.

Moderate to occasionally strong winds from the southwest are expected in Metro Manila while Manila Bay will be moderate to occasionally rough, Pagasa said. *Norman Bordadora*

Troubled flight prods JDV to push for Cha-cha

By Michael Lim Ubac

NOT EVEN A SCARY FLIGHT, even if it might have been a sign from God, could make Speaker Jose de Venecia change his mind about pursuing Charter change.

After emerging unscathed from a troubled airplane ride, the experience has emboldened the Speaker to press on, vowing to devote the rest of his political life to replacing a defective Constitution to, he claimed, usher in an era of peace and prosperity for future generations of Filipinos.

Contrary to the claim of Sen. Franklin Drilon, his co-passenger on the Friday flight to Iloilo, that De Venecia was going to back off from Charter change as a consequence of the scare they went through, the Speaker phoned the INQUIRER yesterday to set the record straight.

He said he was even back in Iloilo City precisely to push for Charter reform during a caucus of stalwarts of the ruling Lakas-Christian-Muslim Democrats coalition in the Visayas.

"I flew back to Iloilo City this morning (Saturday)," said the brains behind the administration-backed initiative to replace the Constitution.

Aside from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, also present at the caucus was President Macapagal-Arroyo's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio.

A day earlier, the Cebu Pacific flight he took from Manila with Drilon, Gonzalez and the latter's son and namesake Rep. Raul Jr. experienced engine trouble minutes before landing at the Iloilo airport.

Sensing that the plane was in trouble, the passengers began praying, the Speaker said.

At one point during the flight, De Venecia even promised to donate the "bulk" of his wealth to the poor.

He vividly recalled asking God to spare them from mishap as he feared not only for his life but for the dire prospects of Cha-cha without him.

"I was praying to the Lord to spare the plane. I said, 'If you spare the plane ... whatever I have, the bulk of it I will give to the poor.'"

The Speaker turned to the Bible, paraphrasing Mark 8:36 which says, "For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life?"

His second prayer request was to see his son Christopher through college.

It turned out that the plane's alternate power source had malfunctioned and the flight was diverted to Cebu's Mactan airport. After repairs, the plane took off for Iloilo and landed there safely at around 11:30 a.m.

Drilon had told reporters that when the plane touched down, a relieved De Venecia happily told the passengers that he had "promised a lot to the Lord just so we would be safe."

Obviously shaken by the experience although he had circled the globe with his wife Gina countless times, De Venecia said he now planned to double his efforts to fulfill his goal of constructing one million houses with the support of the governments of Saudi Arabia, China and the United States.

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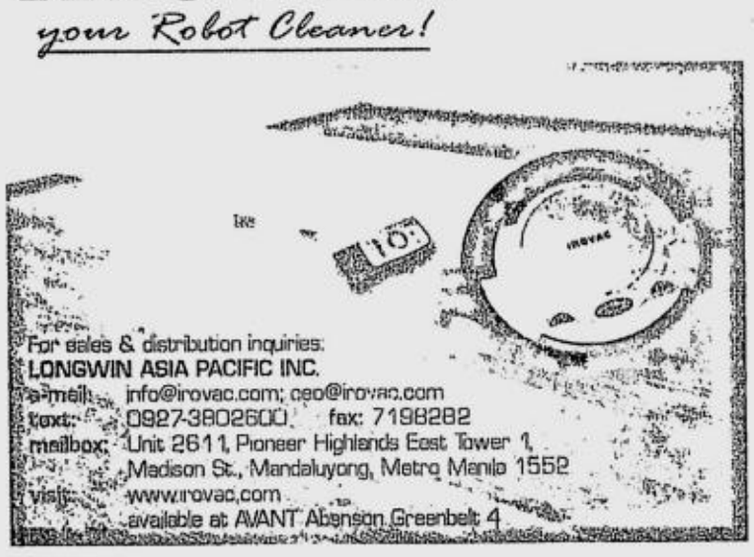
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Center shelters homeless pets

From page A1

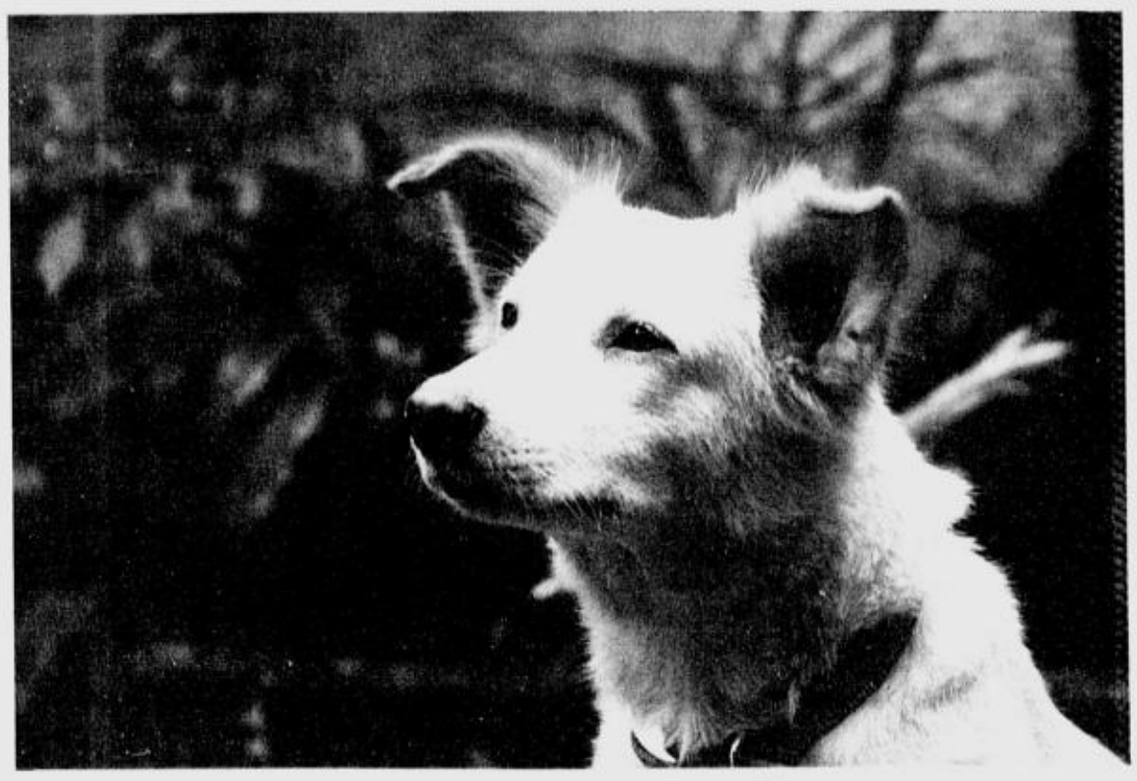
"I thought an adult dog would be a great pet," she said, "because what you see is what you get."

Not all animals up for adoption had been battered or abused. "Some of them were given up by their owners because they didn't realize what they were getting into when they got a pet," Marquez said.

Instead of blowing big bucks on a dog or a cat at a well-known breeder or a pet store, PAWS and CARA are encouraging the public to adopt animals. A huge number of strays are rounded up in the streets and brought to the city pounds only to be euthanized. A few are brought to animal shelters like PAWS and Animal Kingdom Foundation Inc. (AKF).

AKF is located in Tarlac and intended for dogs seized from illegal traders, although according to the staff, they will accommodate "walk-ins" if the animals were truly abandoned.

Not all abandoned animals are found in shelters or homes of animal welfare volunteers.


MIKA, the sweet and docile mongrel rescued from the streets by animal lovers. REY LEYESA/CONTRIBUTOR

Discerning

Some are left at the Philippine Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PSPCA) in Manila because the owners don't want them anymore for one reason or another (i.e. the animal had grown too big and pet food was expensive). Some animals are never claimed from the animal hospital because the owners cannot pay the medical bills.

CARA is very discerning in choosing a new "guardian" for their rescued animals.

According to Jadwani, they interview the prospective pet owner. Only then is he/she invited to see the animals and choose which one to adopt.

CARA also insists on bringing the animal to its new home. This is how they can tell if the adopter is really sincere.

Guardians also sign a contract allowing CARA to conduct home visits. If the animal is not treated well, CARA reserves the right to take back the animal.

All dogs and cats for adoption are spayed, neutered and have completed their vaccinations.

Mika is one of the lucky dogs who not only found a home, but a family that loves her.

At first, she wouldn't let anybody near her because of the unfamiliar environment.

"It's quite stressful for dogs to be in a new environment and to be with strangers," Marquez said. "You have to be understanding when you adopt a dog."

But the 3-year-old mongrel has adjusted well and has her own spot in the living room beside the sofa. When Marquez comes home from school, Mika jumps up to greet her.

Meanwhile, Hanny, with the expressive eyes, continues to wait for a chance to show his love and appreciation.

(PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center is located at Aurora Boulevard corner Marcos Highway, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, with tel. nos. 0922-8815600 and 475-1688. You can also e-mail them at philpaws@yahoo.com. View Hanny and other animals for adoption at http://mefindhome.blogspot.com. CARA Philippines can be reached at tel. nos. 810-1459 and 638-5544. View their website at www.cara-phil.org.)

GMA foes 'powerless,' thanks to 'Milenyo'

From page A1

powerless in their campaign against the administration.

Militant groups, mostly based in UP Village, Teachers' Village and Sikatuna Village in Quezon City, were still without electricity for the third straight day yesterday and admitted that their work had been affected by the continuing power outage.

"Meetings were canceled. Mobile communications were hampered," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza told the INQUIRER.

Militant groups depend on electricity and telephones to send out media statements and advisories via the Internet or fax.

"Although the [typhoon] forecast was correct, we were not told to prepare for a scenario like this. It's like New Orleans when it was hit by Hurricane Katrina," Fortaleza said.

He added that the offices of Sanlakas and those of its allied organizations Akbayan, Partido ng Manggagawa, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and Jubilee South still had no electricity as of yesterday afternoon after the power outage began on Thursday.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition, however, had its power back on last Friday.

Fortaleza said their allied organizations would start their own relief operations from their offices with or without electricity.

"We will embark on relief operations to our affected communities once we're done with the collection of relief goods. People need relief," he said.

Groups allied with the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan held candle-lit meetings regarding relief work.

"We continue to operate despite having no electricity at the office for three days. Even without power, we will do relief work," said Renato Reyes Jr., Bayan secretary general.

Reyes said the campaign work of Bayan and its allied organizations continued although they had no computers to do their work and no phones to coordinate activities.

"But our concern right now is our mass base affected by the typhoon in the communities here and in the countryside," Reyes said.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary general Danilo Ramos yesterday held a news conference—sans electricity—on the KMP's filing of human rights complaints before the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"The press conference went on. It was just a little dim and there was no microphone," said Carl Ala, KMP information officer.

Metro power fully restored today–Meralco

From page A1

percent in Rizal, Mandaluyong, Pasig and San Juan; and 50 percent in Cavite, Laguna and southern Metro Manila.

Transco also said areas outside Meralco's jurisdiction had 74 percent of their normal power service back. The first areas to regain normal services were the provinces of Cagayan, Mountain Province, Benguet, Pangasinan, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Aurora, Ilocos Norte and Sur, Zambales, Bataan and Pampanga.

This was made possible by the hydropower plants in Isabela, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, which were able to be restarted using self-generated power, unlike those that run on coal and natural gas.

Bicol

Transco said it was holding to its target of bringing back power to the battered Bicol region.

Power has been restored in some areas while Legazpi City, Albay and Sorsogon were still powerless, said Cherry Abion of the Office of Civil Defense-Bicol.

Strong winds brought by Milenyo toppled as many as 37 steel transmission towers in Bicol, which was isolated from the Luzon grid as early as 3 a.m. on Thursday.

The toppling of the towers led to the shutdown of power generation facilities, which in turn resulted in a Luzon-wide blackout that started at 12:58 p.m. on Thursday.

Transco crews yesterday continued field inspections and repair activities as the President grew increasingly impatient.

Ms Arroyo wants power services completely restored by today.

Samar

In Ormoc City, Transco information officer Edna Legaspina said the Wright-Taft-Borongan-McArthur and Catbalogan-Calbayog transmission lines on Samar Island had been reenergized.

But Transco has yet to restore the remaining isolated lines in Calbayog-Catarman serving the Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Legaspina said.

The power lines in Samar and Eastern Samar provinces can transmit power from the Transco Buray substation to the substations of the Samar Electric Cooperative I (Samelco I) and Eastern Samar Electric Cooperative, respectively, she said.

Aerial inspection

Legaspina said an aerial inspection of the Catarman-Bobolosan lines would continue today.

She said the Wright-Catbalogan transmission line serving Samelco II was not damaged.

Milenyo damaged the power lines in most parts of Northern Samar.

The Northern Samar government has declared the province in a state of calamity because of severe damage to infrastructure and agriculture.

Optimistic

In a statement, the National Power Corp. said it was optimistic that electric service in the typhoon-affected areas, as well as the entire Luzon grid, would normalize shortly.

"More than 3,100 megawatts of electricity are already being delivered to the Luzon grid with almost 75 percent of Napocor generation plants now on line," Napocor said.

"Hydroelectric power plants such as Angat, Magat and San Roque account for most of the capacity, at almost 35 percent," it said.

Other major power plants already in the grid include coal-fired power plants such as Calaca, Masinloc and Sual, and natural gas-fired power plants like Ilijan.

"Our power plants, which were not as affected by the transmission and distribution facilities, are on standby and ready to deliver power as soon as the lines become available," Napocor said. *With reports from Inquirer Southern Luzon and Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*

RP 'best' in youth migration, says World Bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES WAS CITED AS the "best" example of a country having a proactive approach to broadening the range of migration opportunities, particularly for the youth, a World Bank study has suggested.

On average, it estimated that Filipinos aged 18–24 constituted 31 percent of all female migrants and 15 percent of all male migrants who left for abroad last year.

"The Philippine government licenses recruitment agencies and markets its workers worldwide, signing 56 bilateral treaties with receiving countries. A network of attachés and welfare officers operates worldwide, acting as resources and advocates for the overseas workers," said the study presented during the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings in Singapore held recently.

In addition to broadening opportunities for migration, the report cited the pre-employment orientations provided by the Philippine government.

"Potential migrants are told about cultural differences in the country they are considering—and given information on illegal recruitment, methods for sending money and phone numbers to use in case of grievances," the study said.

The phenomenon of migration, often feared to result in a brain drain, could instead offer a brain gain by boosting the incentives to acquire an education, especially among the youth, the study suggested.

The study, "World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation," also noted that while a brain drain was a concern of most governments, it was not a worry in the Philippines, where college education is mostly privately funded.

On the contrary, the report's chapter on migration raised the possibility of a brain gain as prospects for migration were seen giving incentives to the youth to finish schooling.

"Because some of these individuals will not migrate, average human capital level in a country may, in theory, be higher than in a situation where no one migrates," the report said.

The report said migration by some young people could improve the labor market prospects of other youth in sending countries, a safety valve in times of high unemployment.

The Philippines—along with Albania, Algeria, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico and Turkey—was cited as being among the countries with more than 10 percent of its labor force now abroad, hiking the wage and employment prospects of those left behind.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 1, 2006
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Numbers 11:25-29
The Spirit given to the elders

Yahweh came down in the cloud and spoke to him. He took some of the spirit that was upon him and put it on the 70 elders. Now when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But this they did not do again.

Two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad, the name of the other Medad. However, the spirit came on them for they were among those who were registered though they had not gone out to the Tent. As they prophesied inside the camp, a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Joshua, the son of Nun, who ministered to Moses from his youth said, "My lord Moses, stop them!"

But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous on my behalf? Would that all Yahweh's people were prophets and that Yahweh would send his spirit upon them!"

2nd Reading: James 5:1-6
Misfortunes in riches

So, now for what concerns the rich! Cry and weep for the misfortunes that are coming upon you. Your riches are rotting and your clothes eaten up by the moths. Your silver and gold have rusted and their rust grows into a witness against you. It will consume your flesh like fire, for having piled up riches in these the last days.

You deceived the workers who harvested your fields but now their wages cry out to the heavens. The reapers' complaints have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You lived in luxury and pleasure in this world and felt happy while others were murdered. You have easily condemned and killed the innocent since they offered no resistance.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
Stonehard sayings

John said to him, "Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he does not belong to our group." Jesus answered, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in my name can soon after speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.

If anyone gives you a drink of water because you belong to Christ and bear his name, truly, I say to you, he will not go without reward.

If anyone should cause one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble and sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a great millstone around his neck.

If your hand makes you fall into sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a hand than with two hands to go to hell, to the fire that never goes out.

And if your eye makes you fall into sin, tear it out! It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than, keeping both eyes, to be thrown into hell where the worms that eat them never die, and the fire never goes out.

Commentary

The Spirit that rested on Moses is shared with 70 others! And Moses' prayer echoes today: "Would that all Yahweh's people were prophets and that he would send his Spirit on all of them!" James is one of those prophets crying justice/judgment upon the rich who are insensitive to the evil they lay on others by their injustice and greed and their part in killing the Word and those who proclaim it without doing violence to anyone. We have been baptized in water, Spirit and the blood of Jesus, summoned to be witnesses with the Crucified One, crying justice in our prayers, words and decisions, being and calling others to be the servants of those destroyed violently, and the ransom of those in need. Do we know for a minute what our baptisms initiate us into: the Body of the Lord?

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Bicol damage extensive

From page A1

still without power yesterday.

Others feared the death toll would top 100 once reports were received from isolated areas.

18,000 houses damaged

"The damage could easily reach P4 billion, half of that in Sorsogon," Salceda, who was with the President on the inspection trip, told the INQUIRER.

He said relief officials had estimated that up to 18,000 houses were either destroyed or damaged by Milenyo in its lethal sweep through Luzon.

"The President saw for herself the extent of the damage ... She saw many houses with no roofs," the lawmaker said. "She could not believe that this thing could happen. It was the first time that she realized the full extent of Milenyo's wrath."

Visiting barangay Talisay, Ms Arroyo saw dozens of collapsed houses and told residents: "The government is moving to help you."

A helicopter sortie over Sorsogon also offered her more evidence of the devastation, including school buildings and the city hall with their roofs blown away.

Residents said it was the strongest typhoon to hit the province in 30 years.

Milenyo killed 12 people in Sorsogon. Relief officials put the damage in the province at P2.9 billion.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the government had allocated P200 million to restore power and P700 million to repair schools in the Bicol region.

Disappointed with the slow pace of power restoration and road-clearing operations, Ms Arroyo ordered the police, barangay tanods and civilian organizations to lend a hand to the military, private entities and other disaster relief organizations.

Salceda said the President's directive was for the immediate restoration of power, erection of school buildings, construction of housing, and provision of food-for-work and food-for-school opportunities.

"These are the interventions of government that we need," Salceda said.

Normalization of Metro Manila

"We have to effect the rapid normalization (of affected areas). That is our primary goal now," President Arroyo said during a meeting of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, where she was informed by the weather bureau Pagasa that a new weather disturbance might hit the country soon.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. reported that the military had deployed 2,000 soldiers in key areas in Metro Manila—Makati, Pasig, Pasay, Manila, Quezon City and San Juan—but Ms Arroyo said these were still not enough to clear the streets of fallen trees, electric poles, billboards and rocks.

"Can you (military) work with the police and barangay tanods because it really takes so long to clean. We need a lot of hands," Ms Arroyo said.

Civilian volunteers

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said that civilian organizations were willing to pitch in for the clearing operations if they were given the equipment.

Favila suggested that the government use the chain saws confiscated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from illegal loggers.

In her visit to Bicol, the President got a first-hand account of the devastation wrought by the typhoon, with losses in crops and property much worse than initially estimated, especially in Albay and Sorsogon.

Salceda, Ms Arroyo's economic adviser, said the damage was more pervasive than reported earlier.

According to initial estimates, the typhoon destroyed P521 million worth of rice, corn and livestock in Bicol while pummeling 5,000 hectares of coconut plantations that experts estimated could take between 18 months and three years to restore.

The typhoon also destroyed P136.6-million worth of Bicol infrastructure, according to early estimates by the Office of Civil Defense.

Damage estimates were expected to go up once full reports were received from the affected areas, officials said.

Crops had ripened

Planning officer Percival de Villa of the agriculture department said around 70 percent of Bicol farmers, mostly in the second and third districts of Albay, had not yet harvested their rice when Milenyo struck.

He said there was heavy damage to rice and coconuts in the region.

"They were already at the reproductive and ripening stage when the typhoon hit the region. They were just three to four weeks away from harvest time," De Villa said.

Armando Duque, chief of the OCD in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region, said the Calabarzon could be among the worst-hit areas.

Deaths in Calabarzon

"The death toll in Calabarzon might hit over 100 as reports from provincial disaster coordinating offices have just started coming in," he told the INQUIRER by phone.

He said damage to property, public infrastructure and agriculture could reach several "billions of pesos."

In Cavite alone, the provincial government has placed damage at over P1 billion, he said.

Duque's office said the typhoon killed at least 57 people in the Calabarzon area.

Reports gathered by INQUIRER reporters in other areas said that 13 people died in Bicol, five died in Eastern Visayas, four were killed in Metro Manila and two died in Central Luzon.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the OCD had reported 25 deaths in Laguna, 19 in Quezon, eight in Cavite, two in Batangas and three in Rizal.

Cavite Gov. Ireneo Maliksi reported a higher death toll—21—in his province.

Maliksi said 14 of those deaths occurred in Gen. Trias town where local officials said an ages-old dam collapsed on Thursday, sweeping away dozens of people.

Fourteen bodies have been recovered while 25 people were missing in the incident, Gen. Trias Mayor Jonjon Ferrer told the INQUIRER.

Of those killed in Laguna, 10 drowned in flash floods that swept through an upland community in Los Baños, police Supt. Steve Ludan said. Earlier, police said they were killed in landslides.

The other deaths in Laguna were caused by drowning, electrocution or falling objects.

In Quezon, most of the deaths occurred in coastal communities where several houses were swept away by the floods, according to reports received by Duque.

At least 73 people remained missing in the Calabarzon region, while 40 were injured, the OCD said.

Grief in Gen. Trias

Mayor Ferrer said besides the grief which the Gen. Trias residents felt for those who perished, they were also lamenting the loss of a century-old mango tree that was uprooted by the typhoon.

Ferrer said the tree was planted by no less than Filipino revolutionary general Mariano Trias after whom the town was named. Trias was among those who led the Filipino insurrection against Spain.

So devastating was the typhoon that all the houses in Bagong Silang in Los Baños were blown down and the barangay was turned into a virtual river, residents told the INQUIRER.

Bagong Silang resident Sofia Toledo, who lost her three children and a son-in-law to the floods, said: "Our community looks like a river now. Even the roads are gone." *With Dona Pazzibugan, Joanna Los Baños, Ephraim Aguilar, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

A RESIDENT digs through the mud Saturday in a desperate search for survivors and victims of the landslide in Limao, Calauan, Laguna. REM ZAMORA

DSWD says it has enough relief funds

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE and Development said yesterday its field offices had adequate standby funds and relief goods for release to local government units needing augmentation assistance for victims of Typhoon "Milenyo."

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral said that, as of yesterday morning, the DSWD had pre-positioned P39 million worth of standby resources for the affected regions.

Some P2.6 million worth of food and nonfood relief goods have been extended to Regions 3, 4A, 5, 6 and NCR, the DSWD said in a press statement.

Of this amount, P1.9 million came from the augmentation assistance of the DSWD, P767,581 from local government units and P3,800 from nongovernment organizations.

In Region 3, eight evacuation centers are serving 2,598 people. Augmentation assistance worth P25,425 has been extended to the local governments of Bataan, Bulacan and Zambales.

DSWD Region 5 has extended almost P1.3 million worth of relief supplies to families in Albay, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon on the request of their local governments.

The commodities include rice, canned goods and family packs with used clothing.

Cabral also ordered the deployment of Quick Response Teams to conduct damage assessment, gather data, and help in relief distribution and in managing evacuation centers.

Gonzalez: Billboards part of free speech

From page A1

Gonzalez, is to regulate the installation of billboards, a number of which were toppled by Typhoon "Milenyo" on Thursday, killing at least one person, injuring others, and causing heavy damage to property.

Asked about calls for the Metro Manila Development Authority to tear down the billboards, Gonzalez said: "I don't think you can just do that ... especially if they have permits."

As for the suggested total ban on billboards, he said this could not be implemented because the issue "may fall within the context of freedom of speech."

On Friday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the drafting of stricter regulations for billboards preparatory to the issuance of an administrative order.

He said Ms Arroyo could be amenable to an outright ban on billboards in certain areas because of the destruction wrought on Thursday.

Vindicated

Ermita also said the expected AO would vindicate MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who had earlier sought permission from Ms Arroyo to tear down giant billboards.

Gonzalez said Ms Arroyo would be well within her rights to "regulate, but not ban" the billboards which, he pointed out, had turned Metro Manila into a "billboard jungle."

He expressed agreement with the MMDA, which had wanted Ms Arroyo to declare giant billboards a nuisance.

"[A billboard] is really a nuisance. Whether you like it or not, when you see it, it grabs your attention, it will distract you," Gonzalez said.

"I think big billboards, which strong winds can easily knock down, should not be put up. Maybe we should only permit big billboards that are placed against walls, not those standing alone," he said.

Gonzalez said billboard regulation would work best with the support of local government officials, especially those heading city engineering offices.

He said local government units would play "a major role" in the proposed regulation because billboards were "a source of revenue for them."

Responsibility

The national organization of sign builders and advertisers has taken "full responsibility" for the failure of many of its members' billboards to withstand Milenyo's powerful winds.

But Carlo Llave, chair of the Outdoor Advertisers' Association of the Philippines (OAAP), expressed confidence that all, if not most, of its members' billboards were in compliance with the requirements of the National Building Code.

"The [number] of billboards in Metro Manila is 2,500. Less than 40 fell [during the typhoon]. [In terms of] percentage, that's still a good number," Llave said at yesterday's weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum in Quezon City.

He added: "This is an incident we did not want to happen and we are taking full responsibility. We have already talked with the owner of the billboard [that fell and killed an FX taxi driver]; the owner has expressed full cooperation."

Llave attributed the toppling of many billboards to Milenyo's strong winds.

The Building Code requires billboards to withstand 120-kilometer-per-hour winds, Llave said. "Pagasa said the winds were just 160 kph, but we believe the winds could have been as strong as 220 kph on the average," he said.

Llave said some OAAP members had strengthened their structures to withstand 175-kph winds.

But in an interview, Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said Milenyo was "not an exceptionally strong typhoon."

"The public was not under-warned," he said, adding that Pagasa monitoring stations in Metro Manila had not recorded winds of 220 kph.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport station recorded 181-kph winds; the Port Area station, more than 160 kph, and the Quezon City Science Garden station, more than 130 kph.

"Signal No. 3 winds are those from 101 kph to 185 kph," Cruz said.

OAAP member

JKJ Media, the owner of the billboard that killed an FX driver in Makati City, is a member of the OAAP, Llave said.

He said the firm had guaranteed assistance to the victim's family and reparation to others affected.

"This is without prejudice to the filing of charges against any OAAP member found guilty of negligence," he said.

OAAP official Winthrop Bañez, general manager of OutComm advertising, told the INQUIRER that the organization undertook clearing operations yesterday in cooperation with the MMDA.

"We are willing to shoulder whatever is necessary to help clear the streets," Bañez said.

He said OAAP member-firms had committed manpower, cutting machines and trucks to assist the MMDA in clearing roads.

Llave took the opportunity to push the OAAP's desire to be part of the billboard-regulation process. He said the association had a nationwide membership and 30 years of experience.

"As early as five years ago, we had appealed to government authorities to recognize us as a partner agency so that we could help regulate the outdoor advertising industry," he said, adding:

Santiago bill

"What we wish is for the government to consider us the clearing house for outdoor advertising. In this way, we can recommend whether to approve or disapprove an application to put up a billboard based on [existing] safety and regulatory standards."

Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., chair of the Senate committee on public works, pledged to expedite the passage of the "Anti-Billboard Blight Act" filed by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

"We cannot anymore double-take on the urgency of passing and implementing a law that would strictly regulate and oversee the erection of billboards all over the country," Revilla said in a statement.

"Ours is a country constantly hit by typhoons. Therefore, we need to take extra precaution to safeguard [ourselves] from hazards brought by typhoons and other natural calamities," he said.

According to Revilla, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the MMDA are confused as to which of them should take charge of addressing the billboard problem.

"These agencies both have reasons to keep their positions with regards to billboards. The confusion regarding this matter is brought about by the ambiguity of laws governing billboards. This is why we will push [for] Senate laws with stronger teeth to regulate billboards," he said.

Revilla also said billboard owners should be "held accountable for their products" and indemnify their victims.

Next best option

In the House, Deputy Majority Leader Abraham Mitra called on the government to impose an excise tax, mandatory insurance, size limits and tougher rules on billboards.

"It will be impossible to ban billboards without driving many people out of work and many companies out of business, and reducing the income of local governments," Mitra said.

He said "the next best option" was regulation, "with public safety as the foremost consideration."

He also said the government should "lead the way in tearing down its own nonessential tarpaulins."

"Cities and the countryside must be places of sights, not signs," he said.

To make the campaign for safer billboards a success, Mitra suggested that the government "tap consumer power."

"The public should be advised not to patronize goods and services advertised on billboards that violate safety and construction standards, and assault aesthetics," he said. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza*

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Esperon won't get off so easy – Biazon

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON WILL NOT LET THE issue of Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's alleged involvement in election fraud die even with the latter's "double confirmation" last week by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

"Nobody knows what could trigger instability from the sentiments of the [military] rank and file," warned Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff himself who now chairs the Senate defense committee.

"He's still accountable," he said.

Esperon was a happy person, per his own admission, on Thursday after the CA confirmed his promotion to three- and four-star rank in one day.

Three senators had sought to block his confirmation, insisting that the military must first submit its report on its internal investigation into the involvement of some generals in the alleged rigging of the 2004 elections, as alleged in the "Hello Garci" wiretaps.

Biazon, one of those who opposed Esperon's confirmation, was replaced in the majority bloc in the bicameral CA when Esperon's confirmation was placed on the agenda last week.

He said promoting Esperon to full-fledged general may not have been a "wise" thing to do as the "cloud of doubt" surrounding the generals mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tape was demoralizing to the military rank and file.

Biazon said he would resume the defense committee hearings into the "Hello Garci" scandal after the Supreme Court resolves the issue of Executive Order No. 464 and other Malacañang moves to prevent military and civilian officials from testifying in congressional inquiries.

Esperon and other military officers and soldiers who might have knowledge of the alleged fraud would be summoned, he said.

Juliet Labog-Javellana

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Bishops, *ulama* urge return to peace table

COTABATO CITY—The influential Bishops' Ulama Conference (BUC) has called for the resumption of peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

In a statement, the BUC said resolving conflict at the negotiating table was the most human and humane thing to do, no matter how long and tedious the process may take.

The BUC, composed of 23 Catholic bishops, 18 Protestant bishops and pastors, and 24 Muslim *ulama* (scholars), met in Davao City on Thursday to discuss the deadlock in the Mindanao peace process.

The impasse was brought about by a disagreement over the size of the area to be included in the Bangsamoro juridical entity.

The MILF wants more than 1,000 villages included in the future Moro territory but the government said it would only allow the inclusion of about 600 Muslim-dominated villages.

The government said any expansion of the proposed area should be within the ambit of the Constitution and that the decision still lay with the people through a plebiscite.

MILF chair Murad Ebrahim warned the disagreement over the issue of territory could spell failure for the peace talks.

Ebrahim said the MILF could not accept an agreement that would fall short of the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has said the government would not accept the MILF proposal but that it was willing to compromise.

"We and our people have awaited with interest the results of the peace negotiations since they started. We are dismayed and concerned that they have been discontinued due to an impasse or an unresolved bone of contention," the BUC said in its statement released to the media on Friday.

The statement was signed by Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, BUC co-convenor Dr. Mahid Mutilan, president of the Ulama League of the Philippines, and Bishop Hilario Gomez of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

The BUC also urged the government to study the MILF's proposal very well.

"We also believe that these matters can be resolved within the moral and spiritual framework—not just within the legal one. The urgent needs of our people, including those of the peace negotiators, whether social, economic, political and cultural, are underpinned by moral and spiritual values," the BUC said.

The BUC said it believed the peace negotiators could find a "mutually agreed [upon]" solution by examining the "bone of contention."

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said the MILF was on wait-and-see mode.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

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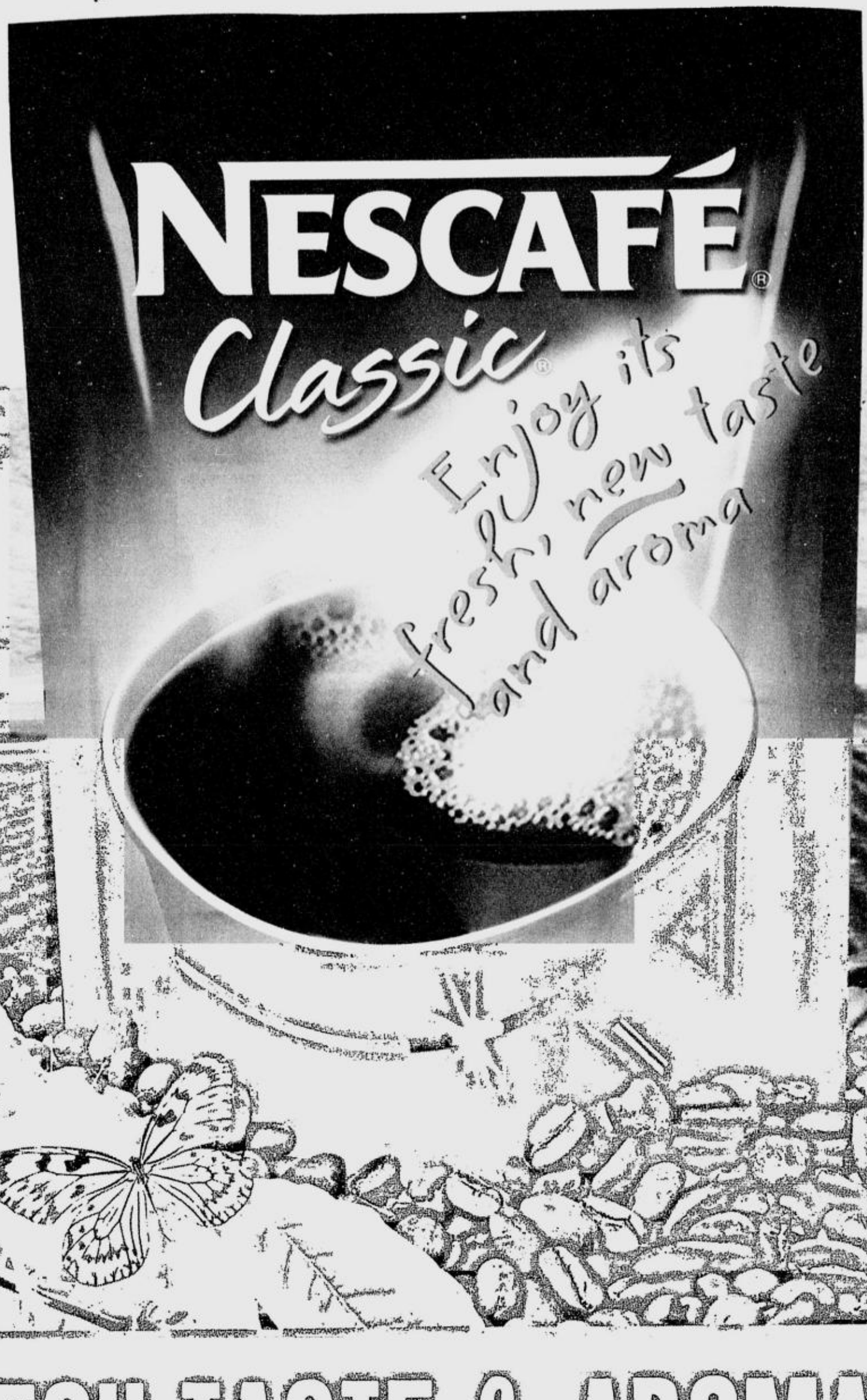

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Hotbed

EDITORIAL

WE KNOW: THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ HAS made the world a more dangerous place. We've written about this tragic, unnecessary detour in the war on terror before, most recently on the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes in the United States.

Part of the blame lies squarely on the shoulders of the White House. As we wrote three weeks ago: "From exclusivist language (Bush: You are either for us or against us) to breathtaking 'short-termism' (no provision at all, in the original budget, for rehabilitation in Afghanistan) to massive disinformation (the conspiracy of lies to justify the invasion of Iraq) to murderous incompetence in the post-invasion years (disbandment of the Iraqi army, the hyping of al-Zarqawi), the Bush administration has managed to turn a righteous cause (unremitting defense of the values of freedom) into a perpetual campaign (narrow-minded, vicious-hearted) of the Republican Party."

But part of the blame can also be traced to growing Islamic extremism. The anti-modern forces that help shape a violent counter-culture in Islam seem to gather more strength—like a typhoon over a body of water—the more contact they have with the currents of modernity and Islam's own mainstream of moderation.

Now the US government has issued an unprecedented National Intelligence Estimate that connects the dots: Part of the reason why Islamic extremism has grown, the American intelligence community now thinks, is the Americans' own mishandling of the Iraq war and subsequent occupation.

The New York Times reports: "The intelligence estimate, completed in April, is the first formal appraisal of global terrorism by United States intelligence agencies since the Iraq war began, and represents a consensus view of the 16 disparate spy services inside government. Titled 'Trends in Global Terrorism: Implications for the United States,' it asserts that Islamic radicalism, rather than being in retreat, has metastasized and spread across the globe.

"An opening section of the report ... cites the Iraq war as a reason for the diffusion of jihad ideology."

In other words, one cause of that rapidly spreading cancer has been the ongoing conflict in Iraq itself.

"The estimate concludes that the radical Islamic movement has expanded from a core of Al Qaeda operatives and affiliated groups to include a new class of 'self-generating' cells inspired by Al Qaeda's leadership but without any direct connection to Osama bin Laden or his top lieutenants."

We have also written about this deadly "franchise" approach to terrorism before; the reality is, the roll call of terrorist strikes since 9/11 includes attacks undertaken by franchisee terrorists: in Bali, Madrid, London, in various parts of Mindanao.

We know that George W. Bush sees Islamic extremism as a potent idea; he famously countered President Macapagal-Arroyo's view that poverty breeds terrorism, aired during her state visit to the United States in 2003, with a forceful reminder that terrorism was also, and essentially, ideological. Its appeal lies not in offering a way out of poverty, but in giving the devout extremist a chance to strike a blow against the materialistic, heretical culture of the West.

The news about the latest intelligence estimate is therefore doubly worrying. It confirms what the international community has begun to realize, over the last two years, that despite advances in direct democracy, Iraq is descending into chaos. And it confirms that, in fact, the jihadist beast is being fed by scandalous American behavior in Iraq and outside it.

The Times reports that "Previous drafts [of the estimate] described actions by the United States government that were determined to have stoked the jihad movement, like the indefinite detention of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay and the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal." We can only surmise that the Bush administration's continuing search for a legal basis to conduct torture, even to the extent of undermining the Geneva Conventions, can only add more fuel to the fire.

This is most unfortunate, because it is precisely when the United States fails to conduct itself according to its own highest standards, to heed its better angels, that it spawns more enemies.

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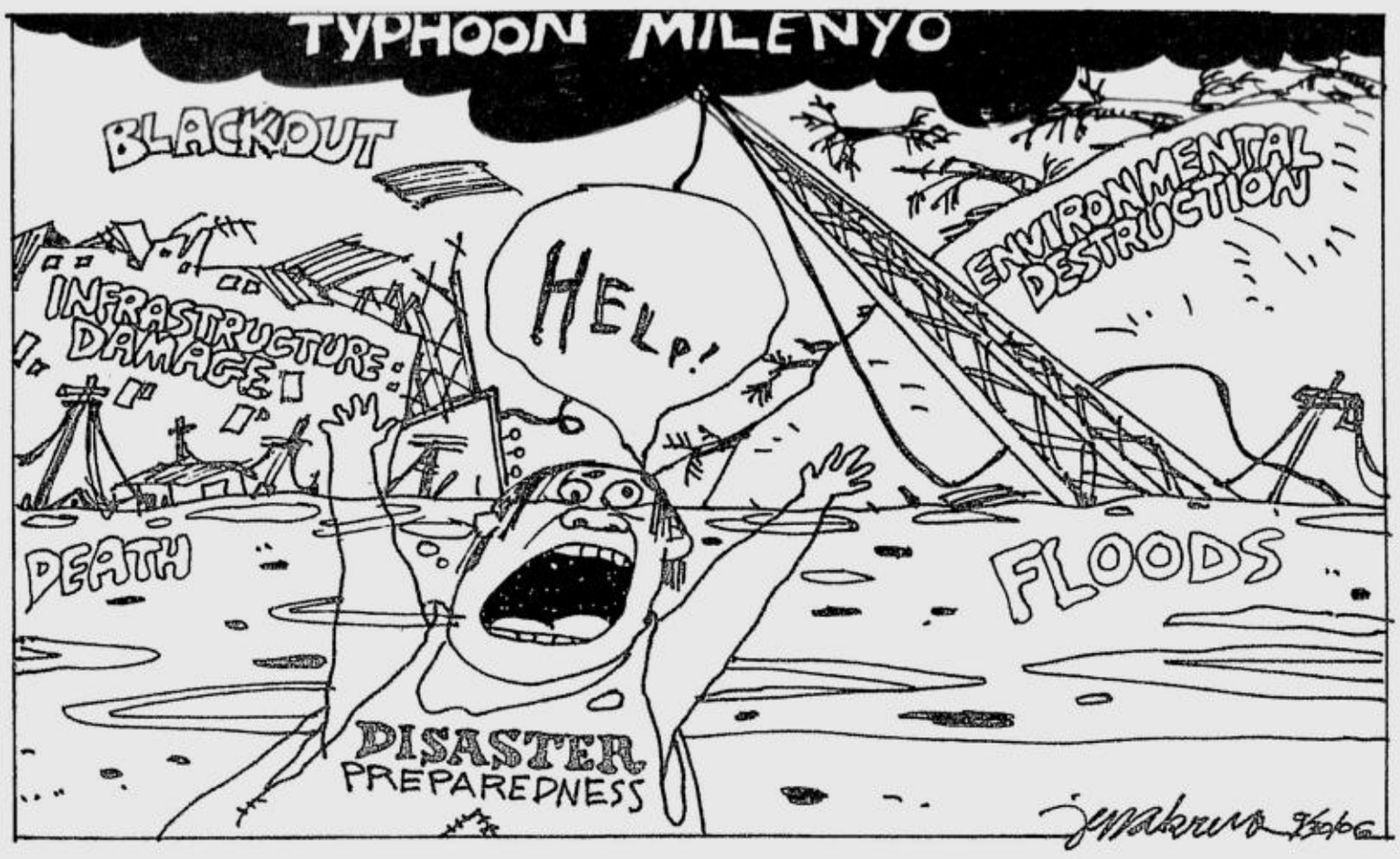

Greetings for a cherished friend

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THROUGH THIS COLUMN, I'M SENDING birthday greetings to a cherished family friend, the boss lady of Destiny, the cable company, and other business enterprises that are contributing immensely to the national economy. She is the well-known and much-admired entrepreneur—Elena S. Lim.

My wife and all our children join me in felicitating her on her 76th birth anniversary that she is celebrating today. I hope she won't mind my revealing her age because she herself has done this in her book, "Business in the Real World," that she published in 1996.

She is like my Sally who likes to tell her age because of the usual comment that she doesn't look 75. Elena does not look her age either although she is now Lola to 11 grandchildren that she coddles.

Elena holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in English. Until I reminded her, she did not remember that she was my student at the UE College of Law when she was much younger. Many people do not know that she is, besides being a teacher many years ago, a full-fledged lawyer and is a prominent member of the Philippine Lawyers' Association.

It was on the occasion of its celebration of Law Day in 2002 that we got to know each other again. It was she and my long-time friend, Justice Justo P. Torres Jr., who extended the invitation of the PLA for me to address it at its joint meeting with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Elena later invited Sally and me to lunch, together with her brother, former Consul General Pablo Sen, and his charming wife, Baby. We had known the couple many years before during our frequent trips to Hong Kong, where they reside. That meeting was the beginning of a valued friendship between Elena's family and mine.

I was to learn later of the pull-out of several important programs from Destiny and their transfer to other cable companies by the supplier. I wrote about it in this column because it was a matter of public concern. Many of Destiny's subscribers could not understand why their favorite shows were canceled, and neither, for that matter, could Destiny.

It had complied with all the terms of its contract with the supplier, including prompt payment of the stipulated rentals, but the shows were canceled just the same. The programs we used to enjoy from Destiny were suddenly unavailable and, as we learned later, had been transferred to another television station.

Loyalty to Destiny and disgust over its unfair treatment dissuaded us from switching to its competitors. We just don't like dirty deals. Destiny filed its complaint with the National Telecommunications Commission but, to date, is still expecting the adoption of reasonable regulations to prevent monopolies and discrimination in the cable industry.

For all its unfair treatment, Destiny has survived and is in fact doing quite well. Perish the thought that it is down and out; in fact, it is now offering new and far better shows. Its boss is still in fighting form with the other companies she heads that employ thousands of loyal and contented co-workers.

She is now semi-retired and has entrusted the active management of her business empire to her children but she is still chair emeritus and makes the final decisions on the more serious matters. More relaxed these days, she prefers to enjoy nature at its greenest and the welcome tranquility of her farm in Laguna.

Elena remembers her humble beginning in Leyte, where she started her small business of selling comic books and tomatoes that has now prospered into a multi-million peso conglomerate contributing much to the national economy. Yet, despite her impressive achievements as one of the most successful business women in the country today, she remains unimpressed by the trappings of wealth or power.

She once said to me, in answer to my curious question, that not a single President of the Philippines has been invited to her stately mansion in Dasmariñas Village. Yet her wealthy neighbors, nuns, students, her employees, and common folk like us have enjoyed her hospitality in that place she calls her home.

Elena describes herself as: "Teacher by inclination. Lawyer by circumstance. Entrepreneur by serendipity... Above all, wife, mother, grandmother in the Lord's service." Modest words, indeed, from an outstanding leader of industry, a firm advocate of economic emancipation, and a model of civic responsibility.

May you continue to enjoy the best of everything, dear friend. Especially in your efforts to rouse the country from its economic doldrums and help in the forging of a better life for the whole nation.

Detachment

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

REMEMBER THE SONG "ETERNAL FLAME" in the '80s? A friend sent me a text message asking that whenever I sing it, I should remember the following people: the blind ("Close your eyes..."); the lame ("...give me your hands"); the deaf ("Do you hear my heart beating?"); the not-so-smart ("Do you understand?"); the passive ("Do you feel the same?"); the poor ("Am I only dreaming?"); the slow-to-understand ("Say my name..."); the foolish ("Sunshine through the rain..."); the miserable ("My whole life, so lonely..."). And with the last line, remember yourself, if you do not change your ways ("Is this burning an eternal flame?").

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 9, 38-43, 45, 47-48), Jesus reminds us that it is better for us to let go of our eyes, our hands, or our feet if they cause us to sin rather than be thrown to Gehenna with its eternal flames. More than the cutting off of body parts, Jesus is asking us to sever our ties and attachments to things or persons that would bring us to hell and are creating hell for us. The choice is ours: Pleasure now, or hell for eternity.

* * *

Radical or just superficial change? A husband once told me: "Father, I have changed. I am more disciplined now. I avoid extramarital affairs and I am going straight now." I congratulated him and encouraged him to go on with his resolve. Maybe, he was too encouraged because he added, "In fact, I don't even get close to my wife anymore," he said.

I asked him, "Why *naman*?"

"That's because my doctor told me to avoid fats!" (*Iwasan and taba!*) he replied.

Well, the choice is ours. We make or unmake our lives by the choices we make. The Lord's call is clear: Radical and permanent change—for the better. Now.

* * *

It took the powerful and devastating typhoon "Milenyo" to remind us of our vulnerability and frailty. No matter how materially secure one is in this world, one has to accept that life is not forever, and that life can be snuffed out anytime, anywhere. What were your thoughts while the cruel typhoon was raging? Were you listening to God in the howling winds? Were you also thinking of others who were less secure and least prepared? After the storm, maybe, you casually and easily just moved on. But please remember, there are people out there who need your help. Please help. Listen to Jesus' words today: "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, Amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward."

* * *

After the typhoon, no power, no water, no TV, no cell phones, no refrigerators, etc. and we survived. A timely reminder that there are things we can do without in this life. These temporary deprivations should remind us that we must not overlook the simple, the basic and the natural things in life. Having said that, let us be reminded that temporary deprivations for us are permanent deprivations for many of our people.

* * *

I just had a relaxing, reflective and recharging retreat at "Isla Maria" in Anda, Pangasinan with Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan and the clergy of Tuguegarao. It was inspiring just to be with fellow priests, sharing with them thoughts and experiences, in a quiet and serene place so close to nature and to God. Deprived of our worldly comforts and securities, we found each other, and we found God. What are those things that make you deaf and blind to others and to God?

* *

If we look back at the "hungry" and "lean" years of our lives, we realize that it was then when we were most ourselves, and closest to others and to God. We have to recapture those moments again and again, and we must not let the toils of life "spoil" us.

* * *

Today is the Feast of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Precisely because she was deprived of and detached from worldly riches, she became a simple, humble, trusting and joyful person in complete surrender to the Father's Will. May we become more and more like her in thought, in word and in deed.

I am 53 years old today, but I still have much to learn from my patron saint, Saint Therese, especially about trusting in God more.

We are launching our book, "Candid Moments" at 4:30 p.m. today. But, as of this writing, the book is not finished yet because of a power failure in the printing press. So, we may end up with a book launching without a book! But, I pray, trust and believe like a child. I believe in miracles and in "impossibles." Whatever happens, Thy will be done, Lord! (We will let you know next week how things will play out. *Abangan*!)

* * *

See you at the "Walk with God" to Manaoag on Saturday, Oct. 7. It starts with a blessing at 6 a.m. at the Urdaneta City Cathedral, and ends with a Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag. As we grow in our love and devotion for her, may we also grow in imitation of her virtues, especially simplicity, humility, honesty and trust in God.

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to detach myself from things and people that could harm me and keep me from eternity. Amen.

Notes on the AFP

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IT HAS BEEN A ROLLER-COASTER WEEK FOR AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. First, he was extolled by Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz as the "poster boy for 'no coups in the Philippines'." A few days later, he became the first AFP chief of staff to be subjected to a barrage of eggs and mud hurled by students at the University of the Philippines. In the eyes of those students, he was a "poster boy" of a different sort.

Esperon should visit other universities in Metro Manila, like Ateneo and La Salle to check if the UP incident was an isolated case or was representative of the sentiments of young people in other politically active institutions of learning. It would be a way of keeping in touch with the younger generation and of determining how they feel about the events taking place in our country.

Last week, the roller-coaster was at its highest point—the confirmation by the Commission on Appointments of his fourth star as AFP chief of staff.

* * *

Tammy Penson is a 5-year-old suffering from leukemia. Recently, she needed transfusions of type A+ blood to treat her anemia. Friends and relatives put out a call on the Internet for possible donors. The request was picked up by Dimple Roxas, wife of Marine Maj. Arturo Roxas at the Philippine Marines headquarters. A quick call for volunteers produced 12 Marines who were brought to the Asian Medical Center in Alabang, courtesy of Rep. Ruffy Biazon, son of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon. Hospital personnel reported that the Marine group was the most qualified donor group ever brought to the facility. Eighty percent of the donors were accepted.

Our brave Marines can be counted on not only to shed blood for the nation, but also to help young kids live and enjoy normal lives.

* * *

The Supreme Court recently ruled that the former Jusmag property in Fort Bonifacio was part of the Fort Bonifacio military reservation, so it was "not open to private appropriation or disposition and therefore, not registrable." Having spent close to P12 million for the land, the members of the Southside Homeowners' Association Inc. (SHAI), composed of spouses of retired military officers, should now file criminal charges against all those involved in the land scam. What many people are wondering is how the Pasig RTC and the Court of Appeals could have initially ruled in favor of SHAI, considering that the documents presented bore fake signatures and the land was legally "inalienable, being part of a military reservation."

This is a mystery which took 15 years to unravel.

* * *

Last week, the Flag Officer in Command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy, Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, almost went on "forced' leave while abroad in order to accommodate Vice Adm. Tirso Danga, the current head of the Western Command. This will be denied by everyone concerned, but if we go by the track record of the present administration, the failed arrangements are nothing new or surprising.

More than a year ago, in one of the most embarrassing snafus in AFP Command turnovers, Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin was supposed to become Southcom chief. At the very last minute, his takeover was scrapped and Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, who was retiring in just four months, was named officer in charge of the most important unified command of the AFP. Adan was later replaced by Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon who could not be promoted to the next higher rank since he had less than a year before retirement.

Last December, Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, who was scheduled to retire in March, went on leave to accommodate Vice Admiral Mayuga who would have been ineligible for the post if De Leon had stayed on till March. De Leon is now our ambassador to Australia.

With postings being made on the basis of accommodations, it would not surprise anyone if it was hinted to Mayuga that he go on leave in order to accommodate Danga. Before any reaction was received, the word went out to prepare for a new FOIC. This is what happens when politicians try to install their boys in the chain of command.

* * *

More on the Thai coup. As I mentioned last week, one of the Royal Thai army officers who played a key role in the recent power play in Thailand, is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. Maj. Gen. Thawip Netniyom, PMA class of 1981, is now the spokesman of the military junta.

Initially, the two leading candidates for Prime Minister were Supachai Panichpakdi, former head of the World Trade Organization, and Supreme Court President Ackaratorn Chularat. Since then, a third candidate has emerged, retired general Surayud Chulanont, who has a reputation as a professional soldier and is widely respected for his loyalty to the King. Surayud is now a member of the Privy Council, an inner circle of advisers headed by Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda.

The fact that Surayud is a retired military officer is not seen as a problem for the junta. In fact, one thing can be said about the Thais. They are not going to try to score brownie points with the West by appointing a civilian prime minister. The United States may talk about reviewing its aid program to the country but that won't stop the junta from acting as it sees fit. The junta has the support of the King and that's the only opinion that counts.

(As of yesterday, news reports indicated that Surayud is the junta's choice for prime minister although no official announcement has been made.)

Shared responsibility for billboards

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ALL OF A SUDDEN, BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL authorities are huffing and puffing about the need to tear down those humongous billboards along major thoroughfares in the metropolis. This, after some 30 billboards in the Metro Manila area were blown down by Typhoon Milenyo, killing at least one motorist, injuring many commuters and flattening several vehicles.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was all over the papers and TV yesterday, ordering a "ban" on giant billboards in his city, in an action that was meant to convey decisiveness—but his was a reaction more akin to closing the barn door after the horses had fled.

Because the truth is, government officials, particularly local government executives, were complicit in the proliferation of those dangerous structures. Outdoor advertising companies would not have been able to erect the towering scaffoldings or stretch the tarpaulins over them without a permit and payment of the needed fees. After all, it would have been hard to ignore the billboards, if only for their size, not to mention their provocative and eye-catching content.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said he would initiate investigations into the culpability of advertising firms, particularly their financial responsibilities in the cleanup and repair of the damaged structures. He also blasted judges who had issued temporary restraining orders against the MMDA when it sought to dismantle hazardous billboards.

But what about the local governments that profited from the billboards? What about the culpability of the mayors or city and municipal engineers who signed the necessary papers and vouched for their safety? Shouldn't charges likewise be filed against them?

* * *

THE DEADLY billboards only prove the lack of central planning and zoning within the metropolis and elsewhere in the country. It was only through official neglect that those giant billboards could have been allowed to mushroom all over Metro Manila, even in highly populated areas and along busy highways—thus posing a risk to motorists not just during typhoons but also when a strong gust of wind blows.

Given our climate, and the possibility of tropical cyclones occurring during more than half of the year, erecting towering structures above houses, flyovers and along railways is foolhardy and reckless. But in recent years, we have seen not just a tremendous increase in the number of billboards, but also an exponential increase in their sizes—dominating landscapes and obscuring views, leading to visual clutter and adding to the sensory cacophony we encounter every day.

This is what environmentalists call "visual pollution," which is every bit as bad as, say, air or water pollution. Fernando rightly worries that the billboards, with their provocative images, may distract drivers and lead to more traffic accidents. But even passengers and commuters are under assault, their eyes and brains given no respite from the relentless marketing campaigns and exhortations to brand loyalty.

* * *

PERHAPS, the solution to rationalizing the proliferation of billboards in our midst lies not so much in government regulation—because it is unreliable and subject to political and other considerations—but in the market response.

The objective behind the setting up of these humongous billboards, after all, is to sell products, or at least build loyalty to a brand. But what if consumers decide instead that the bigger and the more billboards there are devoted to a brand or a product, the less it'll get their loyalty? What if the market decides to punish a store or a manufacturer for its dangerous marketing practices?

We could apply these sanctions as well to the endorsers who lend their faces, bodies and reputations to the marketing efforts of companies. Entertainment figures currently measure their popularity and the size of their talent fees by the number and size of billboards that feature them as endorsers. What if we send a message to the most popular endorsers that we will boycott their movies, CDs, TV shows and concerts if we continue to see their much-larger-than-life images on dangerous billboards?

* * *

THOSE billboards would not have proliferated to the extent they did in recent years if marketers hadn't determined that they worked, that they convinced enough consumers to remember the brand and, more important, to buy the product.

And in that sense, we, the consumers, are partly responsible too for the death, injuries and damages caused by falling billboards and tangled tarpaulins at the height of Typhoon Milenyo.

We need to teach the irresponsible marketers and advertising companies, as well as their conspirators in local governments and regulating bodies, that they cannot now wash their hands off their culpability in the damage wrought by the billboards.

We would also do well to remember that warnings about the hazards posed by the billboards had been aired long before Milenyo came howling into Metro Manila. In fact, people had already died from toppled billboards, houses had been crushed under the weight of the towering structures, and even the Light Rail Transit had once been stalled by tarpaulin that had flown into the tracks, causing an electrical short.

But it wasn't until Milenyo vented its wrath on those billboards that we realized just how foolish we had been and how reckless our collective indifference to the risk they posed was.

This time around, technology has allowed us to predict weather disturbances sufficiently ahead of time to take the necessary precautions, including canceling classes to keep children safe. What we didn't think of was looking farther ahead and realizing the dangers posed by those billboards.

The bigger crisis

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TYPHOON "MILENYO" CAME AND WENT LIKE A haughty star performer with a million-dollar name. Its arrival was announced just the day before, but in less than an hour of its lightning visit, it was gone. In its wake it left a devastation the likes of which Metro Manila hasn't seen in a decade. In an instant, the University of the Philippines Diliman campus where I live became a wilderness. The majestic acacias lining its avenues fell over each other, their limbs ripped from their trunks and their ancient roots pulled from the ground. As it departed, Milenyo wove a funereal curtain out of the telephone and electricity lines and left it as a final touch to its trail of destruction.

One dreads to think how we might fare with a typhoon as fierce as "Katrina," which on an overnight visit reduced the vibrant city of New Orleans into a lifeless swamp. Or with an earthquake as forceful as the one that flattened the Japanese city of Kobe a few years ago. Or with a tsunami as overwhelming as the one that recently engulfed coastal cities in Thailand and Indonesia. I honestly think we may not survive a devastation of such scale. It will most likely set us back by at least one generation. It will, like war, severely scar the national psyche.

To be sure, the Philippines has had its share of millennial calamities. We have survived them mainly because their impact has been local. But it seems we have hardly learned from them, judging from the disorganized way we respond to typhoons, floods, earthquakes, landslides and oil spills.

Every calamity in Metro Manila, the heart of political authority, seems to incite fits of lawlessness among our people. As the last gust of wind left the city the other day, half-naked inhabitants emerged from everywhere and descended upon the collapsed billboard frames and power lines. Armed with steel and wire cutters, they started slicing off and carting away vital tissues of these fallen structures. It was a scene that was replicated in many parts of the city.

As authority makes its absence felt, every inhabitant in the grip of deprivation becomes a scavenger. The veneer of order is suddenly lifted, and every resident is left to fend for himself or to protect his possessions. There was a glimpse of this inexplicable burst of anarchy even in New Orleans, and perhaps it was this, more than the scenes of thousands of displaced residents huddled in gyms, that struck terror in the hearts of ordinary Americans.

The brittleness of order in the face of calamities is a reminder that the seemingly coordinated routines of everyday life do not constitute the essence of a nation's life. Modern nations are held together by political authority. The bigger they are, the less they are able to call upon the customs of community life to maintain order. In modern societies, what takes the place of the instinctive "*bayanihan*" is what the German sociologist Niklas Luhmann calls "the capacity for collective action" that is formed by centers of political authority. This is what we have had a hard time developing in the Philippines.

As the population grows in number, the spirit behind "*damayan*" (solidarity) and "*bayanihan*" (communal self-help) gradually weakens. Government authority must step in to fill up the vacuum created by the erosion of custom. But the institutionalization of government authority is not something that can automatically be built upon a presumed instinct for collective action. If someone tries to cut into a line, Luhmann says, "Collective grumbling may occur, perhaps even individual actions that draw on the implicit support of others. But how far can this action go before it loses collective backing ? There is much to suggest that from the very beginning this uncertainty suppresses every impulse to collectivizing the willingness to act. Everyone waits, and the longer nothing happens, the greater the probability that nothing will."

This is a scary thought. It suggests that a nation may experience prolonged moments of incapacity for collective action, if not of anarchy, because of its failure to develop a legitimate political center. Luhmann concludes: "One knows that societal systems that cannot develop the collective capacity for action cannot get beyond a low level of development."

Nowhere is the ambiguity in our country's legal and political life today more evident than in the anguished blame-tossing that characterizes government attitude toward billboards. The President descended upon Edsa to view the destruction wrought by "Milenyo." An INQUIRER report gave this account: "An irritated President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to address the problem created by the proliferation of billboards in the metropolis."

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said "he expected the DPWH to issue the guidelines to implement the President's order." Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane countered that his agency's hands were tied because the billboard owners were protected by law. In obvious exasperation, the secretary, a former head of the Philippine National Police, said something that graphically illustrates the growing inutility of governmental authority: "If you like, you can hire billboard vigilantes and they will be the ones to bring them down."

Vigilantism is a virus that spreads in societies that have no recourse to effective political authority. This is the bigger crisis we face—our growing inability to form a government that can unite us for collective action.

* * *

Comments to public lives@gmail.com

In the eye of the storm

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I WAKE UP TO A STORM, TO A RUSHING AND A CREAKing and a wailing in the air. Tree branches wrestle outside my window. The cat refuses to stay in his dresser drawer. It is Thursday, and it is cold, and it is my first storm alone as a grown-up. I talk to my mother on the phone. She tells me to stay inside, because the storm is a "destroyer," and that it's dangerous outside. I say that I'll be fine, because when you're recently 21 and living on your own, running home to Mommy when there's lighting and thunder does very little for your ego.

I remember I was 5 the first time I saw a storm. The energy was cut off, the night as hot and humid as a sweaty fist. I remember being woken up at dawn and walking through the flooded living room. Bates, our balding, aging black spitz, stood shivering on top of my sister's old piano.

We got flooded three more times after that. I remember standing outside, watching torrents of rain hammering down the concrete then hurtling back up. I remember the *palaspas* from Easter that my mother threaded through the grills of our gate, which up to now she still claims stopped the flood inches from our front door. I remember myself, all of 14, standing ankle-deep in grayish water and arguing that I was old enough to stay at home instead of being carted off to my cousin's.

Today, I listen to my mother and stay inside while the storm rages. I sit down to type, but suddenly there's no electricity, no signal on my phone, no batteries on the radio. And I sigh and try to look disappointed, until I remember I'm alone and my boss is nowhere near, so I collapse on the couch with a romance novel and listen to the cat whine at his empty food bowl.

There's a knock on the door, and a man in a UP T-shirt asks to see my housemate, the professor. The man is a meteorologist who stays in the same building; he claims he is one of the last few meteorologists in the country. I look at him in awe, on the off-chance that meteorologists are like straight men, and that the fewer they are, the more valuable they get. It's his birthday, he says, and his graduate students from Sri Lanka are going to join him for lunch—would we mind if he cooked at our gas stove?

So suddenly, on a Thursday morning, our living room is filled with people and the smell of cooking curry, and we sit and talk about the relative brilliance of Filipino meteorologists, about growing herbs in a window box and the effect of global warming in Bangladesh. Later we troop down to the meteorologist's apartment, drink beer and eat delectable spicy curry off mismatched bowls using tin forks.

I've forgotten how dark night is supposed to be, and there is only one candle in the whole apartment. At six, I leave for work, hitch a ride with the company car to Makati, and finish at almost midnight. We pile into the car after, windows turned down, wind whipping through hair and lashing at skin. The car slows to a halt at Guadalupe, where the ground is spattered with gobs of wet cement. We see sparks, and trucks, and the bright blinding white of emergency lights. Someone in the car says that an FX had been crushed by a falling billboard. We tell the driver to drive slowly, and there it is, the billboard, an enormous metal monster sprawled almost across the entire street, and crushing a sedan at its base. That's the FX, they say, and I say no, it's not an FX. And I crane my neck, and I see that it is, that the billboard had crushed the top like an empty soda can smashed underfoot. Someone takes a picture, I take down notes, and we can't stop looking, to hell with morbidity and disrespect, because we were alive and we were there and we could shake our heads over the story after and say thank God it wasn't us.

We drive down a dark, almost-empty Ortigas, following the few red pinpoints that were taillights of cars. I hear someone ask about the meaning of the storm. Is it God punishing the Philippines for its sins? There is pathetic fallacy everywhere: the sky is crying, the winds are striking out in anger, and we are left in the darkness of our ignorance. I think that, maybe, when you're this young, when it's possible to believe that the extraordinary is in reach, when you want to change the world now, today, this very moment, when you operate under the conviction that you're here for a purpose, everything seems to have some sort of hidden meaning.

The next day, I stumble out of my bedroom to friends who are sprawled on my living room couch. They say they didn't come to see me, that the brownout had killed their electric water pump the day before, and that all they're interested in is my toilet. All this is said in the mad race to my bathroom, and my girl friend Sharine grins at me before she slams the bathroom door closed.

Later, after they made good use of the bathroom and dropped a few pounds, I am surprised to hear myself ask them to stay for lunch. The fact that I don't live at home does not mean my mother has stopped living in my head. I empty out the refrigerator, and there we were, four kids laughing while splitting two cups of rice, instant noodles, salted eggs, a small can of tuna and a quarter bottle of spiritless Coke. Because we're all good friends, and have at one point or another cleaned up the other's vomit after a night of vodka and gin, the rice disappears without the polite spoonful left at the bottom, and Mark does not hesitate when he says my noodles are "*medyo* weird."

Stories go around—about crashing motorcycles and live wires over gasoline stations. Someone says there is a man who was walking down the road when a piece of roofing ripped through the air and chopped off his head. There's another story, even worse, of a man whose legs walked away without the rest of his torso. That the stories are exaggerated do not matter—we're just happy to be alive to tell them.

As I write this now I think about implications, and meanings, and try to think of some earthshaking social commentary about the storm and the havoc it wreaked. And then I wonder if sometimes, maybe a storm is just a storm, having nothing to do with faith or God or politics or the cleansing of sin—exactly what my meteorologist neighbor calls "a violent disturbance of the atmosphere" where the winds move counter-clockwise and follow the rotation of the earth.

When this is all over, some lives will have changed irrevocably. Legislation is sure to torpedo through Congress banning billboards along Edsa, and coffee shops will have made a killing catering to the refugees of a darkened metropolis. There will be those who will forget, and for others it will be just another storm, one of many; a memory of stories told and of laughter ringing out in darkened rooms.

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For comments, e-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

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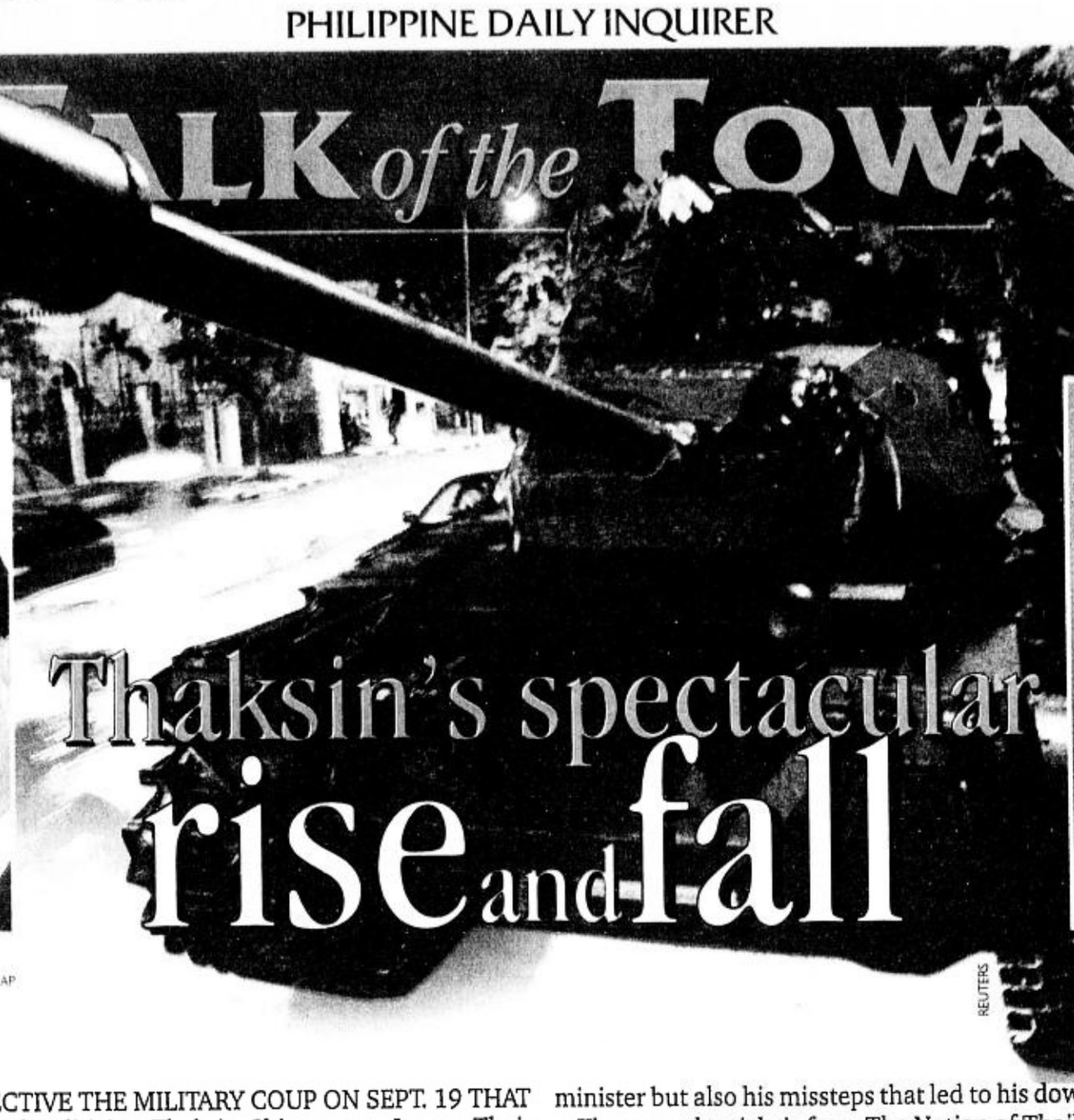
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

DEPOSED Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra AP



COUP leader Lt. Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin REUTERS

PAGE DESIGN BY MARLON RUBIO AND LA MISTADES

Thaksin's spectacular rise and fall

TWO ARTICLES PUT IN PERSPECTIVE THE MILITARY COUP ON SEPT. 19 THAT ended the rule of tycoon-turned-politician Thaksin Shinawatra. It was Thailand's 18th coup since it became a constitutional monarchy in 1932.

The first article is from The Straits Times of Singapore. It traces not only the rise of Thaksin from a moderately successful businessman to Thailand's most powerful prime minister but also his missteps that led to his downfall.

The second article is from The Nation of Thailand. It explains why the coup, despite its popularity, is a setback to democracy.

The Straits Times and The Nation are members of Asia News Network, a group of 14 newspapers in the region that includes The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

He alienated the elite, but won over the poor

By Nirmal Ghosh
The Straits Times

FORMER THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra built a $2-billion fortune and rose to power by appealing directly to the poor. During his rule, the Thai economy shook off the 1997 financial crisis and boomed. So how did the billionaire politician end up without a job in the bloodless coup on Sept. 19?

In an ironic twist to the downfall of the most powerful prime minister Thailand has ever seen, Thaksin's very strength might have been his biggest weakness.

The 57-year-old billionaire from Chiang Mai had built his political power base on the backs of poor farmers from the country's northeast. His businessman's horse sense went down well there.

He once told The Sunday Times: "Better to lend money to the poor who will pay it back than give it to rich businessmen who will run away with it.

"If I walk into a bank in a suit, they will give me a loan without question. Try walking into a bank dressed like a villager and see what they say."

Populist

He founded the Thai Rak Thai (TRT)—Thais Love Thais—in 1998 on a populist platform which promised to spread wealth to rural Thailand. Three years later, it rode a wave of disillusionment with corruption and directionless government to victory in the 2001 election.

Thaksin, weathering accusations that he was concealing his own vast assets, approached politics and governance like he would run a business. The TRT had sent consultants to the countryside to find out what the people needed and fashioned policies that delivered. Among them were cheap universal health care and microcredit schemes.

Last year, his party captured an even larger majority. The regions he had cultivated with his populist policies—the north and northeast—alone delivered 259 seats out of the 375 the TRT ended up controlling in the 500-seat Lower House.

Toothless opposition

The opposition was rendered toothless. TRT ideologues boasted that Thailand was heading for a two-party system, and the party could stay in power for 20 years.

Confident of his rural clout, Thaksin sneered at critics in public, often using his Saturday morning radio talk to the country to berate respected Bangkok intellectuals and economists.

But therein lies the rub that may have sent his stock crashing and, on Sept. 19, severed his hold on the premiership.

Analysts agree that Thaksin's monopoly on both economic and political power reduced the space of the Bangkok elite: old-money patricians, old-generation bureaucrats and influential intellectuals.

He had also alienated the Privy Council by simply ignoring them, a TRT insider told The Sunday Times.

Coopted

Critics said that Thaksin had coopted dozens of senators so the moderating influence of the Senate was neutralized. He ignored the National Human Rights Commission and let the National Counter Corruption Commission fall into disuse.

Furthermore, Thaksin coopted almost all the electronic media, using it to dominate communication channels. He was perceived as autocratic and arrogant.

In essence, he had displaced generations-old power networks with new networks of his own. He placed loyalist police and army officers in key positions. An army that was finally professionalizing had again become politicized—and in the end overthrew him in the country's first coup since 1992.

Yet if Thaksin's end was spectacular, his beginnings were anything but.

Although his father was a politician and his uncle a Member of Parliament who at one time served as a deputy minister, the young Thaksin was only a moderately successful businessman.

He joined the police force more as a stepping stone to greater things than as an end in itself.

That Thaksin was bright was never in doubt; he had finished at the top of his class in Thailand's police academy, and in 1979 earned a doctorate in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University in Texas.

Wife key to success

Already well-connected, he married Pojamarn Damapong, daughter of Thailand's powerful Deputy Police Chief Samoer Damapong, with whom he has three children.

She would prove to be a key ingredient in Thaksin's success story—something he often acknowledged in public with obvious pride.

Thaksin's first step into the big league was a mobile phone concession in 1990. His Shin Corp. then built a telecommunications satellite.

As his net worth grew, riding the boom that lasted from 1986 to 1997, so did his political stock. He escaped the crash of 1997 relatively unscathed, but as he was already in government at the time, many believe he was tipped off about the devaluation of the baht and managed to hedge against it.

Thaksin served in two coalition governments before deciding that to be in politics on his own terms, he needed his own party.

Ideologues such as former journalist Pansak Vinyaratn, who wanted to fashion a "new Thailand," joined him in creating the TRT.

At first, that was exactly what Thaksin seemed to be doing.

By July 2003, in his first term as prime minister, Thaksin stood before a huge Thai flag on national television and declared "independence" from the International Monetary Fund.

That month, a year ahead of schedule, Thailand paid off the last $1.6 billion installment of the $12 billion loan it had taken to help survive the 1997 economic crisis.

Fuelled by spending and investment, the economy had recovered in earnest by 2003. In 2004, GDP growth was more than 6 percent and exports grew 22 percent. Last year, GDP growth slowed to 4.5 percent and exports to 15 percent—but the economy remained inherently robust.

A 2003 "war on drugs" in which more than 2,000 people billed as drug traffickers were killed, however, cast a pall over his administration. Several innocent people were killed by police, ostensibly by accident.

When a United Nations human rights rapporteur remarked on the death toll, Thaksin famously snapped: "The UN is not my father."

In the south, he dismantled a joint military-police-civilian administrative structure, even though local residents reckoned it was working well. In 2004, the dormant Islamist separatist insurgency reemerged.

Well over 1,300 people have been killed in the region along the Malaysian border since January 2004 in shootings and bomb attacks that security agencies have been unable to curb.

Thaksin appeared to condone a hardline response, which spawned a deep backlash and thoroughly alienated Muslims.

Tax-free sale

Then his family sold its controlling stake in Shin Corp. to Temasek Holdings in January for 73 billion baht ($1.9 billion). The family legally avoided paying tax on the income, and the luster of his accomplishments lost more of their shine.

Detractors accused him of being unethical, saying he had made money from Thais and given nothing back.

The often flamboyant Thaksin's personal wealth alone was estimated by Forbes magazine this year at $2.2 billion.

The Privy Council, whose power had grown over the years, embodied the old elite which became increasingly uncomfortable with Thaksin's growing fortune, style and power.

Earlier this year, in several speeches, Privy Council president Prem Tinsulanonda, 86, reminded Thais that their leaders should have high moral standards.

Disrespecting the king

Thaksin was accused of disrespecting the King—an unpardonable act in Thailand. The objections of the elite combined with resentment among intellectuals and the middle class.

"It is Thai Politics 101: You cannot have a prime minister who is too powerful," one political analyst remarked late last year as the movement against Thaksin began gathering pace.

Thousands under the banner of the People's Alliance for Democracy, led by disgruntled former supporters such as maverick publisher Sondhi Limthongkul and ascetic Major-General Chamlong Srimuang, took to the streets demanding that he resign.

The demonstrations succeeded in shaking Thaksin so much that he took to touring his up-country strongholds. There, even bigger crowds shouted their unwavering support for him: "Thaksin, *soo!* *Soo!*" or "Thaksin, fight! Fight!"

"It was when he was up-country that Thaksin felt most comfortable and could talk more freely about making a new Thailand," recalled one TRT member who asked not to be named.

Well-aware that violence would make the government look bad and could trigger a coup d'etat, Thaksin ordered police and the military to exercise restraint during demonstrations in Bangkok.

But fears of bloodshed grew as the high-stakes power struggle deepened. Society became divided in a manner not seen before, Thai analysts said.

Snap election

Trying to short-circuit opposition in Bangkok—and the wild card of the army—Thaksin dissolved Parliament in February and called a snap election, hoping to renew his mandate. But Thailand's three largest opposition parties crippled the election with a boycott.

The impasse dragged on until last month when King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has ruled for 60 years and is hugely influential, told the country's top judges to sort out the mess.

The courts swiftly annulled the April 2 poll and said a new one should be held. In a dramatic decision last month, they found three election commissioners guilty of favoring the TRT—and jailed them.

The stakes mounted.

Break impasse

Alleged assassination plots and conspiracy theories gained ground. Military intervention was openly discussed as a means to break the impasse.

Thaksin appeared uncompromising—and so did the deep-seated movement to oust him.

Last month, a powerful bomb was found near Thaksin's house in a car driven by a junior army officer. Police called in senior army officers for questioning.

Chulalongkorn University academic Thitinan Pongsudhirak warned of a growing army-police showdown. "The police are going to come out at the wrong end," he said.

His words proved prophetic. As Thaksin and his entourage were enjoying breakfast in New York on the morning of Sept. 19, royalist army chief Sonthi Boonyarataglin seized his chance.

Outflanking the premier's loyalist generals, he unleashed tanks and armored Humvees into Bangkok in a swift and surgical operation.

Not a single shot was fired.

Democratic alternatives to military takeover

By Giles Ji Ungpakorn
The Nation

IT IS A SAD SIGHT TO SEE many Thai liberals today backing the coup and arguing that there was no alternative.

As a socialist and one who protested against the coup on Friday evening with the slogan, "No to Thaksin ... No to the coup," I wish to explain the democratic alternatives to the coup.

The present coup leaders claim that 80 percent of people support the coup. If that is the case, and the 16 million people who voted for Thaksin on April 2 of this year have now really changed their minds, these military men should have taken an alternative road.

Months ago, if not years ago, they should have set up a political party and taken part in the elections which were due shortly. With their 80 percent backing they would have beaten Thai Rak Thai. It is no secret that the Democrat Party, which now supports the coup, boycotted the April 2 election because they knew that they would lose. They knew they would lose the next scheduled elections too.

Did Thaksin and Thai Rak Thai win various elections with convincing majorities because they cheated? There is no evidence that the 16 million people who voted for this party were forced to do so. There were no armed men forcing them to vote in a particular manner. I voted on April 2 against Thai Rak Thai and I did not feel that anyone could see how I voted. Did Thai Rak Thai give money to voters? Probably, but so too did the Democrats, Chat Thai and Mahachon parties. Did this affect the outcome of the vote? No. Why not?

In his book, "Tale of two democratic cities," Anek Laothamatas argues that it is necessary to build political parties with real policies which can win votes in the countryside. This would end or reduce the system of patronage and money politics. The book was written before Thai Rak Thai was established.

What Thai Rak Thai actually did was to spend some time building up policies that would correspond with the needs and demands of various sectors of society. They won elections on those policies, especially the first-ever universal health care scheme and the village funds. They won again last year and this year because they carried out those policies. The Democrats lost because they spent all the time attacking the health care scheme and other social benefits on the basis that they destroyed "fiscal discipline."

While in power after the economic crisis, the Democrats, like all neo-liberals, felt that it was not against "fiscal discipline" to use our money to pay off the nonperforming loans created by the rich. Some years ago I shared platforms with spokespeople from Thai Rak Thai and the Democrats. I attacked Thai Rak Thai's abuses of power and criticized the Democrats for not having any policies. It didn't take a genius to work these facts out.

Yes, the Thai Rak Thai government was a government of big business and it also carried out neo-liberal policies for business interests such as privatization and free-trade agreements. No difference from the Democrats there. But worse still, Thai Rak Thai committed gross human rights abuses in the war on drugs, at Tak Bai and other places in the South and they are responsible for the abduction and presumed death of defense lawyer Somchai Nilapaichit. There was also corruption, but this is a common phenomenon among all Thai political parties, the Army and the police.

There is an arrogant and antidemocratic position which argues that the rural and urban poor do not understand democracy. Not only are the poor uneducated, but they also lack information, we are told. "Democracy" according to these undemocratic and elitist liberals, is where a government does not bow to the wishes and demands of the electorate. For them to give people what they want is to give sweets to children, a bad thing because later their teeth will be all rotten.

So if the poor cannot come to their senses and vote for a nice party like the Democrats, which will cut their social benefits and village funds (in the national interest of course), then the poor do not deserve the vote. These people called for the use of Section 7, where His Majesty the King appoints an alternative government in a crisis. This did not happen, but later there was a coup, which these so-called liberals now support.

Over a year ago a number of us set up the People's Coalition Party in order to campaign against war, state violence and neo-liberalism. We called for the establishment of a Social Democratic Welfare State, funded by progressive taxation of the rich. Not many people have joined us in building an alternative party which could offer real benefits to the poor majority.

So what now? The one thing that I have learnt over the years, with encouragement from my father and mother, was never to trust a military dictatorship. A coup is not "reform." Dictatorship is not "democracy." The military cannot be trusted. Democracy has taken a serious step backwards.

But Thai democracy, like democracy anywhere, is and always will be built from below by social movements. That is why true supporters of democracy must stand together and demand that the military leave politics and that the 1997 Constitution be immediately restored, along with all democratic rights. The military has no right to stage a coup or tear up the Constitution, just as Thaksin had no right to commit gross human rights abuses or to avoid paying tax.

The military also has no right to appoint a temporary government. Such a government, if necessary, should be elected under the supervision of the old parliament, the new and old Senate and real representatives of the social movements. It should have only one important job: to organize political and social reform, involving representatives of various sectors of society, especially the majority who are farmers, and blue-collar and white-collar workers.

(Giles Ji Ungpakorn teaches Political Science at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.)

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartello
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

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VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
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₱15M in ARMM funds lost per month

COTABATO CITY—THE AUTONOMOUS REGION in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has been losing P10 million to P15 million a month to overpaid salaries of teachers and operating expenses of schools, which were later found to be nonexistent, regional officials said.

The discovery was made following an inventory of schools and teachers in the region.

The inventory was ordered by ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan following the discovery of anomalies in the region's Department of Education (DepEd) last year involving the nonremittance of premiums to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Teachers also complained of not receiving their salaries although ARMM documents indicated they did.

"DepEd ARMM has been losing an estimated P10-P15 million monthly from overpayment of salaries (alone)," acting regional Education Secretary Udtog Kawit said.

ARMM solicitor general Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi, who headed the investigating team, said based on the payroll prepared by the past administration, there were 13,479 elementary teachers in the ARMM.

Dead paid

"But with the inventory, so many discrepancies were discovered," she said.

Sayadi said one of the things uncovered was that dead and retired teachers are still being paid their monthly wages.

"There were those who had already retired from the service but still their names were in the payroll and continued to receive their salaries," Sayadi said.

She also cited the case of Panginuma Tambinague, who died in July.

"(He) was still included in the payroll," Sayadi said.

Sayadi said the inventory also found that out of 2,838 elementary school teachers in the Maguindanao payroll, only 2,586 are with plantilla positions and 72 of them had been overpaid.

This means that the salary grade of the teachers in the payroll is higher than what is reflected in the plantilla.

In the first district of Sulu, out of 1,288 teachers in grade schools' payroll, only 1,250 are in the plantilla.

There are also cases of teachers receiving two checks or payments for up to two different jobs.

"There was double entry in the case of Mohammad Ramlan, who got two checks—one for salary grade 18 and the other was for salary grade 16. There was also the case of double entry wherein one Mangondaya Daluma got two checks (as teacher and administrative aide)," Sayadi said in a report submitted to Governor Ampatuan.

Basilan and Tawi-Tawi had 263 and 57 overpaid teachers, respectively.

Sayadi said the team has recommended the verification of the plantilla and the filing of charges against those behind the scam.

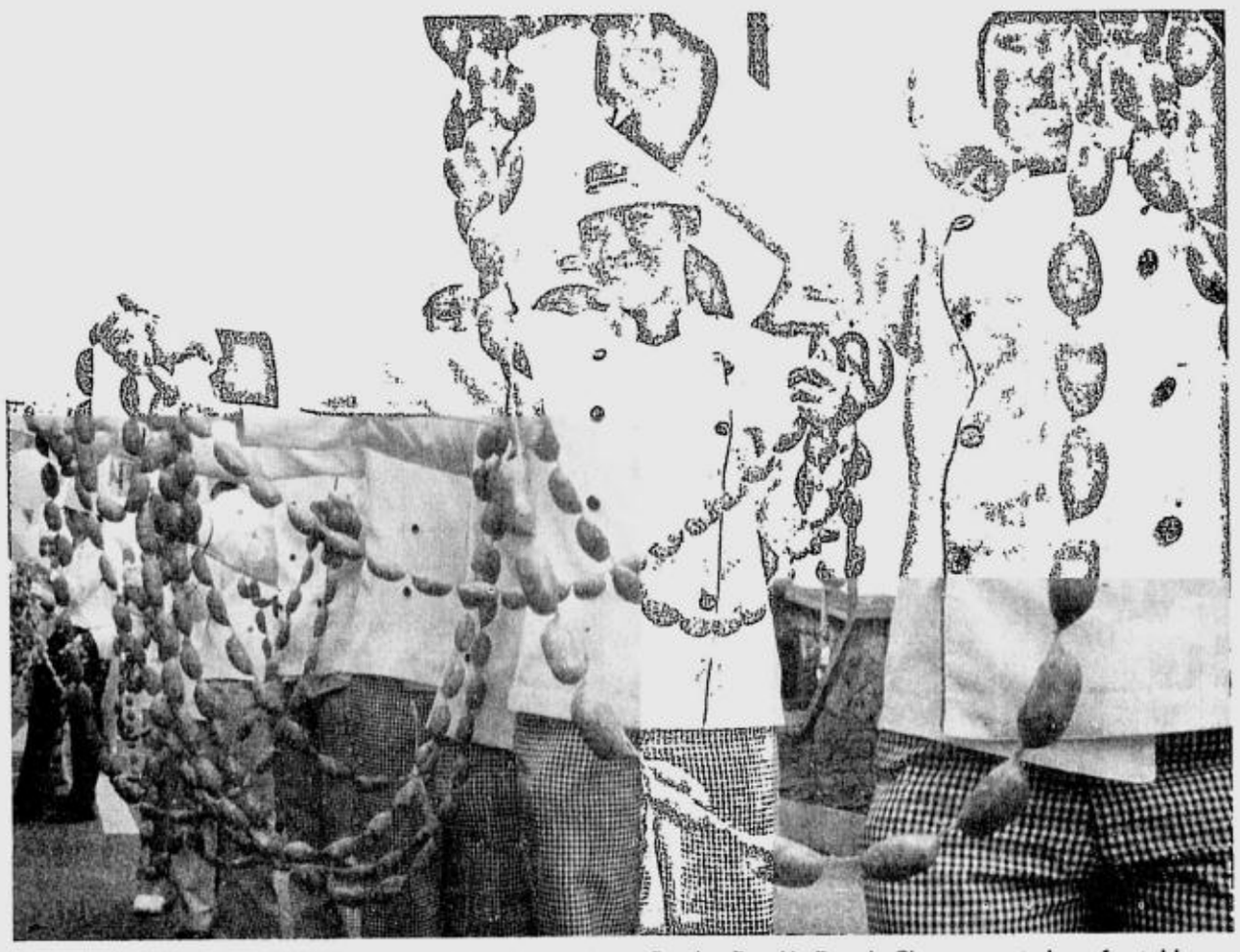
"Several people are involved and we cannot yet identify them as the investigation continues," she said.

Sayadi said they also found that there are 39 schools which are "unrecognized and inexistent" in Tawi-Tawi and Lanao del Sur.

Asked what makes "unrecognized" different from "inexistent" and "ghost," Sayadi said there was not much of a difference.

"These schools only exist on records, but physically they are all nonexistent," she said.

Explaining the use of different descriptions, Sayadi said: "It's irritating already when you keep repeating the word ghost, that's why we have to call them 'inexistent' and 'unrecognized' in keeping with diplomacy." *Charlie C. Señase and Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*



SOME of the 900 students who held the 2.3-km *longganisa* on Session Road in Baguio City appear to have fun taking part in the tourism-boosting program. Organizers said the event was not to break records but draw more tourists to the country's summer capital.

TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Baguio strings 2.3-km native sausage to boost city tourism

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AMID OVERCAST SKIES, A 2.3-km long *longganisa* (native sausage) was laid out on Session Road here on Saturday in celebration of the Baguio tourism weekend.

With Typhoon "Milenyo" hitting parts of Northern and Central Luzon on Thursday, organizers said they prayed for good weather so the event would be staged smoothly.

At least 700 volunteers, most of them hotel and restaurant management and tourism students from at least 15 schools in the city and nearby provinces, held the sausage as they looped it around the two lanes of Session Road.

The students, who were garbed in white chef suits and hats, entertained the crowd by dancing as street bands played on.

Anthony de Leon, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB), said the event was not intended to beat the records set by similar events in the Ilocos and Pampanga but to boost tourism in the city.

De Leon said they also wanted to make Baguio's *longganisa* popular again.

Paul Alabanza, owner of the Alabanza Meat Store that supplied the sausage, said the actual length of the *longganisa* produced for the event was 4.8 km but only 2.3 km of sausages were laid out on Session Road as they lacked people to hold them.

Purificacion Molintas, Department of Tourism director in the Cordillera, said the actual length of *longganisa* was enough to beat the record set by Pampanga, which earlier presented a 3.1-km sausage.

Nancy Alabanza, the meat store's co-owner, said they started to produce the sausage on Sept. 19 by slaughtering at least 70 pigs. The 1,440 kilograms of pork produced 7,200 dozens of *longganisa* for the event.

The recipe included ground pork, garlic, salt, pepper, sugar and food coloring. As in other native sausages, the mixture was encased in pork intestines.

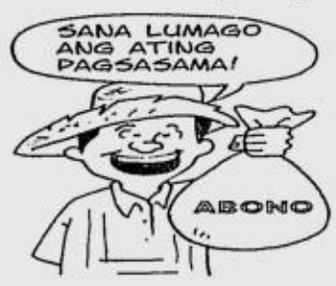
The *longganisa* was sold to the public at P30 per dozen and P160 per kg after the event.

"We still make our *longganisa* with our original recipe and we never use preservatives. Our *longganisa* is a hit among tourists and residents. Even those who live as far as California [in the United States] continue patronizing our sausages," Alabanza said.

Among the people who witnessed the event on Saturday was New Zealand Ambassador David Pine.

ROUNDUP

Abono: New party



URDANETA CITY—The Commission on Elections has accredited Abono as a party-list organization to represent farmers in the Ilocos. The Comelec said their records revealed that "more than just paying lip-service to the peasants, Abono has performed concrete acts in the interest of its members." Abono held a series of trainings and seminars on farm technology and various issues for farmers in Pangasinan and La Union last year. The Comelec said these activities proved Abono's track record. Ponciano Onio Jr., Abono president, said the organization has about 25,000 members in Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte and maintains town, city and provincial chapters in the Ilocos

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Mayor's win affirmed

IBA, Zambales—A court here on Tuesday affirmed the 2004 election victory of Mayor Danilo Pamoleras. The 17-page decision by Judge Clodualdo Monta of the regional trial court also dismissed the election protest filed by Doris Maniquiz-Jeresano and upheld the validity of Pamoleras' proclamation by the municipal board of canvassers. The court said a validation of ballots showed that Pamoleras received 7,195 votes while Jeresano got 7,148 votes.

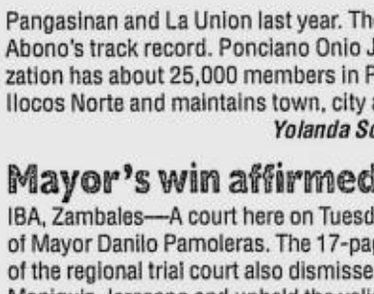
Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon

6 hurt in blast

COTABATO CITY—Six people, including a village official, were hurt when a grenade exploded inside a state-run university in Kabacan, North Cotabato on Thursday. Police ruled out terrorism. Senior Insp. Abello Junggaya, Kabacan police chief, said witnesses saw a lanky man hurl the grenade at about 10 p.m. Junggaya said the attack was meant to scare because the grenade was not thrown at a crowded area. On Sunday, university security personnel also found a grenade during the opening ceremony of the intra-collegiate intramurals.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Radioman nabbed



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

PAGADIAN CITY—Police authorities here arrested a local broadcaster for his alleged involvement in the illegal version of the numbers game "swertres." Pedro Garcia was caught during a raid here on Thursday. Garcia was allegedly caught with gambling paraphernalia. Garcia, 33, is anchorman of a news and commentary program being aired over "Radyo Bagting," a radio station owned by the family of Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles.

Richel V. Umel, Inquirer Mindanao

Robbery suspect slain in Davao Sur

DIGOS CITY—Suspected vigilantes gunned down a robbery suspect in Barangay Gulhing in nearby Hagonoy, Davao del Sur on Tuesday. Police authorities identified the victim as Hadji Sukarno Tua, 48. Tua was driving a motorcycle and on his way home, along with his wife and daughter, when one of two men riding in tandem on another motorcycle shot him. He died instantly. His wife Flor and their 2-year-old daughter suffered bruises when the motorcycle crashed. Tua, also a casual employee at the municipal hall of Hagonoy, was one of three suspects in the June 13 robbery involving a businesswoman near a bank here.

Eldie S. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

2 sites picked for MassKara

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—For the first time in 27 years, the MassKara Festival, which opens today, will be held in two sites here in the city.

Eli Francis Tajanlangit, MassKara Festival director, said the two sites are the MassKara SM Village at the reclamation area and the plaza, which has a total area of almost six hectares.

"Another thing that makes this edition of the MassKara Festival different is that we are celebrating our emergence in the global village as a city," Tajanlangit said.

He said the creative team, which helped him draw up the creative framework of the festival, concluded that the past 12 months saw the entry of call centers and other technology-driven businesses.

The MassKara 2006 will start with raising of international flags at the plaza at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, which will be followed at 6 p.m. by the opening of the MassKara SM Village.

Tajanlangit said there will be an unprecedented number of live band performances during the star-studded event.

BAYAN TEL

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While our telephone and DSL subscribers continue to enjoy BayanTel service in the wake of Typhoon Milenyo, about 40% of our subscribers in Quezon City, Malabon, Caloocan, Manila, Navotas, and Bicol (Naga and Legaspi) were affected by loss of service after the typhoon caused significant damage to our telephone and DSL infrastructure and poles.

We are working around the clock to restore the service of affected subscribers within the next 48 hours.

There was minimal loss of service reported in corporate data services where we serve the connectivity needs of major industries such as banks, manufacturing, service, among others.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

From farmers to 'hacenderos'

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur

VENIRANDA PATEÑO'S FRAIL BODY reflects the irony of time and struggle that had messed up her life for many years.

All her life, she and her husband had tilled a piece of land that saw the slow and difficult passing of time. In June, they were finally granted full ownership of the property, 11 years after her husband had died.

It happened when she was almost alone and too old to go to farm and enjoy the feeling of being a *hacendera*.

Nevertheless, the 74-year-old widow has all the reasons to be happy. Now, she is one of the owners of the 527-hectare Hacienda Maria in the village of Angas in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur.

An emotional Pateño gathered with fellow *hacenderos* last month to celebrate a Supreme Court ruling that the Emancipation Patents (EPs) and Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) issued to the farmers of Hacienda Maria were indefeasible and could not be cancelled.

While her colleagues hastily stood up when they were asked to be recognized, Pateño sat for a while.

"I spat blood while tilling this land," she said as she folded the stained brown piece of paper that, she later said, was the title for her 3-ha piece of land planted with rice, corn, vegetables and oil palm. Her husband died in 1995, when things were still uncertain.

Tasia Aguillar, 66, has her own story.

"We suffered a lot and I thought I would die without us winning the case," she said.

But they never lost hope that they will win the land they contested up to the Supreme Court.

"We helped each other. We pooled our money and resources just for us to follow up our case in Manila," Aguillar said.

Hacienda Maria, Inc. (HMI), owned by Bacolod City-based Buenaventura Montelibano Colmenares, acquired the entire property, then a forested area, in 1956. The area was logged until the claimants came to occupy and till the land.

In 1972, the government, through Presidential Decree No. 27, declared that all tenanted rice and corn land be covered by Operation Land Transfer (OLT) and awarded to farmers. HMI, through a certain Joaquin Colmenares, placed the whole property under OLT and started to receive payments for the land.

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Law was passed in 1988, expanding the land coverage regardless of the crops produced.

Records showed that the Colmenares family actively participated in all processes related to their property, including the determination of the average production per hectare at the barangay committee on land productions. They even signed a Landowner and Tenant Production Agreement (LTPA) for the entire property, which was submitted to the Land Bank of the Philippines in 1977.

In the same year, the Colmenares family executed a deed of assignment in favor of the petitioners, which was registered at the Registry of Deeds.

Wrong annotations?

The fight of the occupants for their rights over the hacienda began in 1997 when a 277-ha portion of the property was legally questioned by HMI. Wrongful annotations were allegedly found in the deed of assignment, affecting 25 tenants.

In December 1997, HMI filed a petition with the regional agrarian reform adjudicator (Rarad) of Caraga, seeking to declare the contested property erroneously annotated. It claimed that the area was not forested and unoccupied, contrary to the claims of the tenants that were backed with receipts of compensation paid for the land.

HMI sought for the cancellation of the EPs and Transfer Certificate Title (TCT) which was granted by the Rarad. The officer declared void the rights awarded to the beneficiaries.

The claimants appealed to the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab), which affirmed the earlier decision. The Court of Appeals issued a similar ruling, citing some technicalities.

Proofs of ownership

Samuel Estrebillo, the principal farmer petitioner, vouched that the property was planted to rice and corn and stressed that there were tenancy relations.

Enrolled in the Torrens System of Registration, which records land ownership, the EPs and CLOAs are proofs of ownership, Estrebillo argued. A title may be cancelled only one year after the document was issued, he said. Otherwise, he added, the validity of the title may no longer be contested or questioned.

"We have been tilling that land for more than 20 years and most of the farmers had received a Certificate of Full Payment when the DAR granted the petition to cancel our Emancipation Patents," Estrebillo said.

"When we learned that our titles will be cancelled, we felt helpless. We could not understand why our titles were not enough proofs of our ownership. We were not even told that the titles were fake. The DAR gave us the titles and then one day, they wanted to take them back."

20-year delay

In a 19-page decision penned by Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, the high court declared that the whole HMI property had been placed under land reform in 1977 with the consent of the owners who have also been paid by the tenants for their property.

"The unreasonable delay of HMI in filing the petition for cancellation more than 20 years after the alleged wrongful annotation of the deed of assignment... and more than 10 years after the issuance of the transfer certificate of titles to the farmers is apparently motivated by its desire to receive a substantially higher valuation and just compensation should the disputed 277 ha be covered under Republic Act No. 6657 instead of Presidential Decree No. 27," it said.

PD 27, also known as the Emancipation Act, was created for the emancipation of tenant-farmers of private agricultural lands devoted to rice and corn under a system of share-crop or lease-tenancy whether classified as landed estate or not.

The nongovernment Kaisahan, which helped the claimants, said the Supreme Court's decision only showed how clear it was that EPs and CLOAs were indefeasible.

Bogus petitions

"We hope this decision will stop the confusion and as well as any more attempt to stop farmers from possessing the lands awarded to them through bogus petitions for cancellations," said Jane Capacio, executive director of Kaisahan.

The Department of Agrarian Reform said that all over the country, 374,266 ha of land are now being petitioned for EPs and CLOAs.

"I cannot explain my feelings right now. We have been through difficult times as we fought for this land and now it's finally ours. We are so happy that the law favored us this time," Estrebillo said.

This sentiment was echoed by Nerie Dueñas, who represented the farmer-tenants in various forums and one of those who followed up the case in Manila.

"We will not die for this land. We will live in this land because we are willing to kill for this land," Dueñas said.

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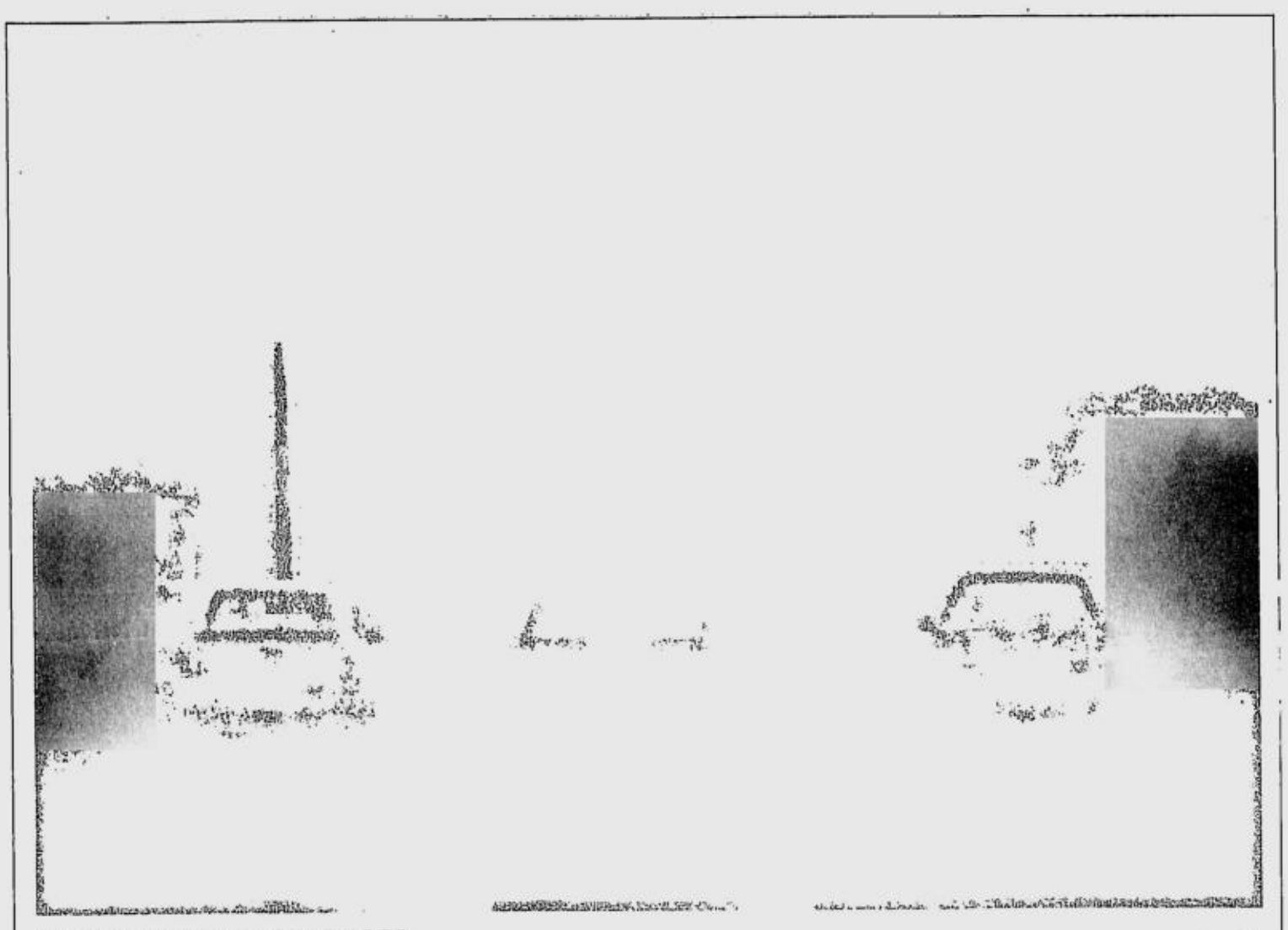
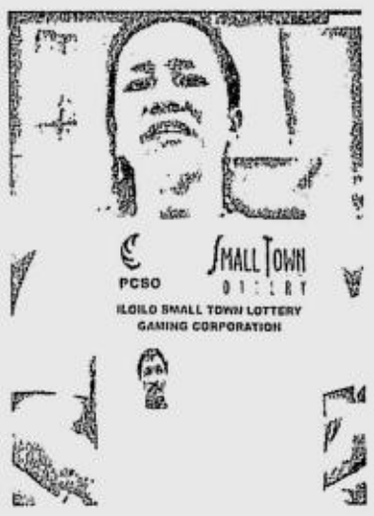


DASHING THROUGH THE RAIN JN
A convoy of vehicles, one of them carrying President Macapagal-Arroyo, heads back to Manila from Clark in Pampanga. Ms Arroyo went to Pampanga in bad weather to preside over a meeting of the regional disaster coordinating council that was held at the White House in Clark.

STL, 'jueteng' becoming more and more alike



A COLLECTOR for STL in Iloilo City shows off an ID card to protect bet collectors from arrest by police on suspicion they were collecting bets for "jueteng."
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

LUCENA CITY—THE PRACTICE by bet collectors of small town lottery of using ordinary paper or "lastillas" to write down number combinations will now be allowed to make the government-sponsored lottery hew closely to the illegal numbers game "jueteng" that it wants to stamp out.

Jose Gonzales, operations manager of Pirouette Corp., the franchise holder of STL in Quezon, said the modification was one of the revisions that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and STL operators have both agreed upon in a meeting held Monday.

"The STL collectors in the streets can now legally take bets and list them in any piece of paper. But they should always have their official identification card with them whenever they make the rounds. The IDs will serve as sufficient proof of their legitimate status," Gonzales explained.

All STL employees have been issued by the PCSO with plastic laminated ID cards.

He said once the collector finished soliciting bets, the number combinations will be transferred to official STL forms which will be distributed by the PCSO starting today.

"They could no longer submit 'lastillas' in the STL station because it will not be honored. It should now be written in the official lottery bet forms," Gonzales said.

Gonzales said the newly formed STL Task Force, headed by Rosario Uriarte, PCSO general manager, would lead the war on jueteng and bookies, that have been riding on the legality of the government lottery game.

"It's good news for licensed STL operators. We've long been urging the government to help us stop the operations of bookies and jueteng because they are sabotaging not only our operation but also the PCSO's charity programs," Gonzales said.

He said with the activation of the task force, the authorized STL operators and their official betting stations will no longer experience harassment from overzealous anti-illegal gambling police forces.

"But the official STL betting stations could still be subject to surprise inspection and visitation whenever the station or any of its employees are being suspected of using the place as venue for illegal operation," Gonzales said.

However, the inspecting party should always have a PCSO representative during the inspection "to avoid confusion and untoward incidents."

Last week, 19 bet collectors and employees of Pirouette were arrested by police in a raid in nearby Pagbilao town on allegation that the suspects were engaged in "bookies and jueteng" operations.

However, the Quezon provincial prosecutor office dismissed the charges as baseless.

Gonzales described the new STL betting form as much larger than the current one being used. The new form will also bear a series of control numbers for auditing purposes. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Bid to save Baguio street mosaic goes imported

BAGUIO CITY—A COATING STRIPPER USUally used for slippery bathrooms is now being seen as the "savior" of the mosaic laid out by Baguio artists on the sidewalk of Session Road two years ago.

Earlier, the city council approved a resolution calling for the removal of the mosaic, which has become a tourist attraction here, because the work of art has turned into a street hazard.

Businesswoman Odette Nassr tested the imported coating stripper on the mosaic in front of her pawnshop on Wednesday. The stripping chemical wore down the glaze of the tiles.

"It's still early to say if this is effective. We have to wait for the city chemist to test the environmental effect of this stripper before we can recommend it," Nassr said.

The stripper took out the glaze from the colored tiles and made them porous after a few minutes of application.

A representative of the Stone Tech Professional, which sold the coating stripper to Nassr, said a bottle could treat two square meters. STP said the product, which is imported from The Netherlands, is environmentally safe.

ONE OF the street mosaics that is now considered street hazard.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

The artists, and those who preferred to leave the mosaic on the sidewalk, like Nassr, would have to work overtime because the city government is bent on removing them when Session Road's sidewalk is repaired.

Acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said he has ordered city engineer Leo Bernardez to prepare the final program of work for the sidewalk repair. The re-paving would cost P6 million.

With only P40,000, Baguio artists, led by Kawayan de Guia and Kigao Rosimo, laid down the mosaic in time for the 2004 Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival to cover the broken parts of the sidewalk.

The artists used broken tiles of various colors (in one section, even a mannequin's hand) to create pedestrian works of art.

John Nassr, owner of a local pizza restaurant, scraped off the coating applied by the city engineer's office on the mosaic in front of his establishment and asked the Baguio artists to create another piece there.

While the pieces are colorful and attract attention, these are slippery.

An elderly woman slipped on a piece in 2004 and her relatives blamed the mosaic for her injuries that they said resulted in her death two months later.

To avoid another accident, the city engineer's office applied a gum-like sealant on the mosaic but these wore off weeks later. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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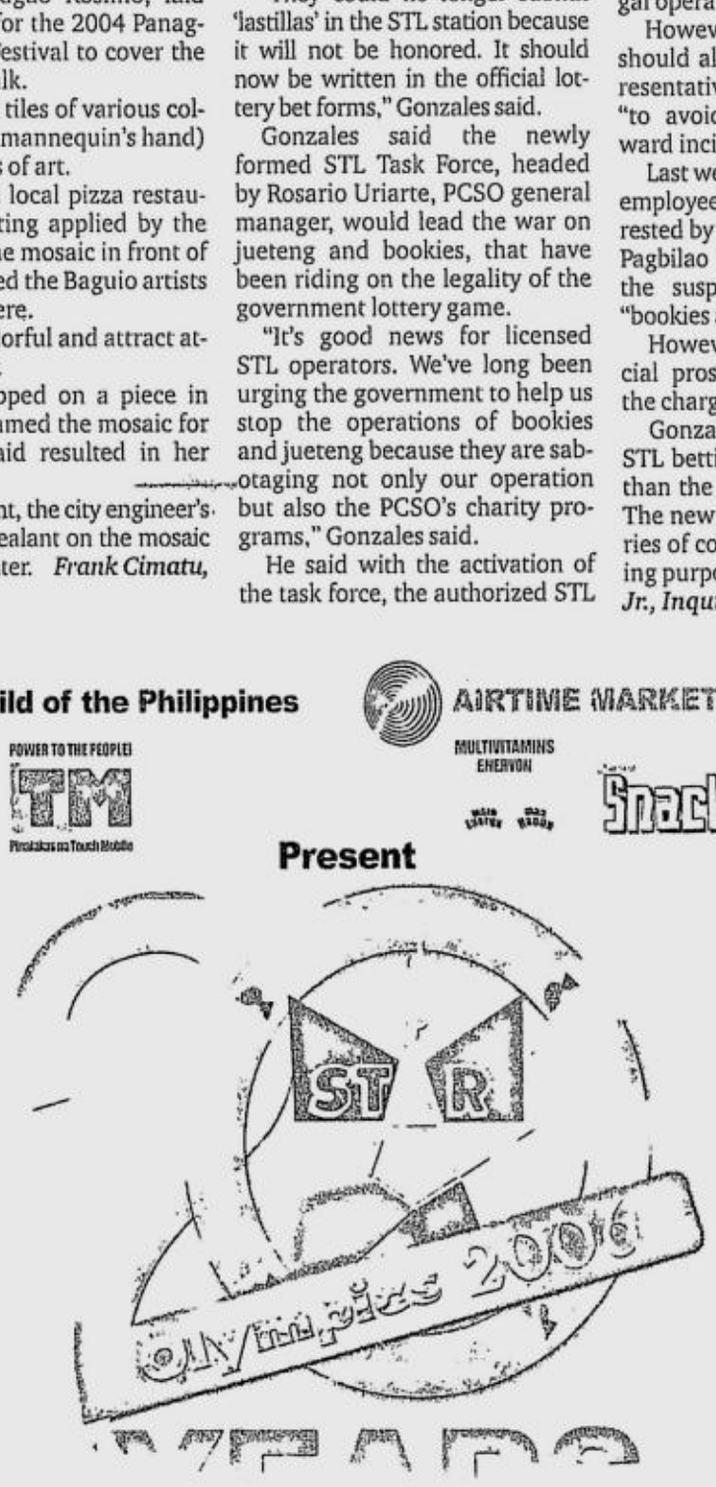

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Live Coverage :

Sept 23 , Sat	Star Olympics All Star Badminton Tournament Rizal Memorial Badminton Court	2PM
Oct 1 , Sun	Motorcade/Entertainment Show/ Volleyball/ Basketball Pasig Sports Center	2PM

Telecast Dates :

Oct 1 , Sun	Star Olympics 20th Year Special Part 1	10PM ABS CBN
Oct 8 , Sun	Star Olympics 20th Year Special Part 2	10PM ABS CBN

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UP head proposes 300% tuition hike

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—University of the Philippines president Emerlinda Roman has proposed a 200- to 300-percent tuition increase next year for the state university, citing the shrinking government subsidy and UP's failure to upgrade its socialized tuition program.

The proposal would bring the cost of a UP education up from an average of P6,000 per semester to about P18,000.

Speaking to reporters at the Philippine Military Academy, where she delivered a talk to cadets on Saturday *(See other story on this page)*, Roman said tuition at UP had not been adjusted in the last 15 years and was "ridiculously low."

"That would be okay, but the thing is quality education comes with a cost," the state university's first woman president said.

Roman said UP had lobbied strongly for an P8.5-billion budget. "But we never get what we want; and even if (Congress) increases the budget for education, a large part of it will go to elementary and high school because they are free," she said.

Roman said there was nothing in the law that said the government should provide a free college education, and warned that all other state colleges may end up following UP's example because of the government's fiscal crisis.

Roman's proposal would increase UP fees from P200 or P300 per unit to P1,000 on the Diliman, Manila and Laguna campuses. The smaller campuses in Baguio, the Visayas and Mindanao may see the per-unit fee increased to P600.

She said UP economists estimated that the P300 per unit tuition since 1989 was worth about P42 today.

Continued Roman: "The university has been remiss because we have not adjusted tuition... and because of this, we haven't reviewed the Socialized Tuition Fee Assistance Program, which reduces or removes the tuition obligations of poor students.

According to a primer issued by the UP Board of Regents, the eroded real value of tuition provides "unwarranted support today to students whose families can actually afford to pay the full cost of instruction."

It had been noted that "the rise in nominal incomes in almost two decades has resulted in fewer students qualifying for tuition discounts and stipends," from 34 percent in 1989 to only 5 percent qualifying in 2003 and 2004.

At any rate, said Roman, the proposed increase was still "far less than the P100,000 tuition in other top universities."

The state university's Board of Regents met on the UP Baguio campus on Friday, and handed out survey forms to solicit the views of the students and faculty members.

The students responded by staging a protest rally. *With a report from Nasser Dugasan, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

2 different worlds can come together, UP chief finds

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—UNIVERSITY of the Philippines president Emerlinda Roman wanted to explain to the cadets of the Philippine Military Academy here why a "campus of tolerance" works.

But Roman said she was shown instead how a regimented, orderly life can also produce "nice cadets."

Roman and members of the UP board of regents were visiting the PMA campus to discuss a faculty and resource-sharing arrangement between the state university and the PMA.

According to PMA superintendent Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, this was the first time that educational institutions "coming from two extremes" were meeting to address common issues.

He said the academy wanted to tap into UP's expertise in faculty development to help jump-start the PMA's curriculum reforms, set out in a PMA modernization road map that is targeted for completion before 2015.

Roman said UP might also lend its expertise to helping the PMA develop its Center for Leadership and Professional Excellence, which Maligalig's predecessors had drawn up as part of the reform plans.

She said UP had 644 degree programs taught by more than 3,000 professors and experts.

Penchant for controversy

The meeting became an occasion for officials from the two supposedly antithetical traditions to boast about their penchant for courting controversy.

Roman recalled how Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had "unfairly branded" UP as "a breeding ground of destabilizers and streakers."

PMA officials said the academy came under criticism from media and civil society for producing "coup plotters," when a number of its graduates were implicated in corruption scandals and destabilization plots.

Roman's visit was highly anticipated here as it came a week after Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. was pelted with eggs and mud by UP activists when he attended a forum on the Diliman campus.

Roman said it would be up to Dr. Sergio Cao, the UP Diliman chancellor, to decide whether or not to punish the egg-throwers.

But she stressed that the university was a community of ideas.

"People look at UP more openly because they know UP is not dominated by a particular ideology. We are hospitable to all kinds—we have socialites, serious thinkers, antigovernment activists and passionately progovernment people. We tolerate all kinds," she said in English and Filipino.

Battlefield

Addressing the cadets, Roman said the University of the Philippines had also been described as "a battlefield, not of physical force, but of the mind, where ideas, no matter how contradictory, are welcome and allowed to flourish."

She said a former UP president, Onofre D. Corpuz, once took issue with this. Corpuz said calling UP a battleground was a romantic stereotype that he found odd as he could not imagine the mass of Filipinos supporting a battleground with their taxes.

Roman described life at the university as one of constant disagreement.

"We're always debating. We're always arguing, we are always disagreeing with each other, but at the end of the day, we really agree to disagree and we're happy with that," she said in an interview.

Getting others to understand this lifestyle is difficult, she said, especially when UP's "culture of tolerance" is introduced to more regimented lifestyles like those that the PMA cadets follow.

But she said the cadets had given her a good impression of the academy.

A UP official in Roman's party said the way the cadets showed respect for each other was something one could easily find today.

"Even Congress knows... UP will always be a different kind of institution. I don't think they will ever be ashamed of UP. I think there are groups that would not agree with us, but they realize that UP is there forever," Roman said.

A plus METRO
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Program helps abuse victims come forward

Gabay Bata teaches Muntinlupa students that it's all right to say 'no'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IN A PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN Muntinlupa City, 11 boys revealed that they were being molested by their male teacher.

A Grade 5 pupil from another school, meanwhile, had a painful confession to make: Her stepfather has been raping her for the past three years.

Coming forward and admitting that they were victims of sexual abuse would have been very hard for the children to do, had it not been for their schools' Personal Safety Curriculum.

For 40 minutes once a week, students are taught how to avoid becoming victims of physical or sexual abuse and what to do during emergencies.

The Personal Safety Curriculum is part of the Gabay Bata project of Zonta Club of Muntinlupa and Environs Foundation Inc. (ZCME)—a private organization composed of 32 women professionals.

CHILDREN in a Muntinlupa school display posters with pro-child, anti-abuse messages.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

Emboldening step

Menchu Henson, Gabay Bata project director, admitted that the students' revelations were depressing but at the same time, they could help bring out other victims still silenced by fear, shame and confusion.

"I saw such a positive thing in those boys disclosing that they were abused. They were not ashamed to do it. And it tells us that we must be doing something right," Henson told the INQUIRER in an interview.

GABAY'S Menchu Henson: "We want to have free and happy children living in a safe community."

Zonta launched the Gabay Bata project in 2003 to address the problem of child abuse by empowering the youth, through education, to protect themselves.

The group was spurred into action after looking at statistics gathered by the Philippine National Police and Department of Social Welfare and Development. The figures showed that at least 30 percent of Filipino children under 18 years old were experiencing either physical or sexual abuse.

Disturbing situation

The disturbing situation was corroborated by ZCME's flagship project, the Sagip Crisis Center for abused women and children. In its six years of operation, Sagip has handled over 2,000 cases, 50 percent of which involved children, said Henson.

"But these are only the reported cases. What about those who keep silent? The Sagip project was more reactive in nature so we though of something that would be more preventive," she added.

After its launching, the Gabay Bata project—with the support of Muntinlupa's Department of Education and Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA)—was pilot-tested in two public elementary schools: Bayanan Main and Bagong Silang Elementary Schools.

The project was also introduced to Lakeview Elementary School this year.

Since 2003, over 5,000 students have been taught how to protect themselves from being victims of physical or sexual abuse. More than 100 teachers have also undergone training on conducting personal safety lessons, effectively handling abuse cases and detecting symptoms of abuse in children.

The project not only covers the youth, it also seeks to get their parents involved. Since its implementation, parents of Grade 1 pupils

PROGRAM/ A19

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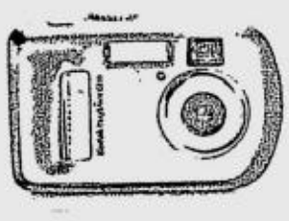

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LRT, MRT operations back to normal

By Riza T. Olchondra

OPERATIONS OF METROSTAR EXPRESS and the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Lines 1 and 2 returned to normal yesterday, two days after typhoon "Milenyo" struck the metropolis, downing power lines that affected operations of the three mass railway transit systems.

Both lines of the LRT and MetroStar stopped operating on Thursday morning as strong winds wrought by "Milenyo" and power fluctuations made it difficult for normal train operations.

LRT Line 1 resumed partial operations on Friday, with its trains plying only the Monumento to Central station route.

On the other hand, LRT Line 2 could not operate. Two light posts near the train tracks had tipped over, blocking the tracks between Gilmore and Betty Go terminals and from the Pureza to V. Mapa stations.

In addition, an iron sheet had hit the power supply tower of its Recto station.

The MRT 3 also remained idle due to debris blocking railway tracks and insufficient power supply.

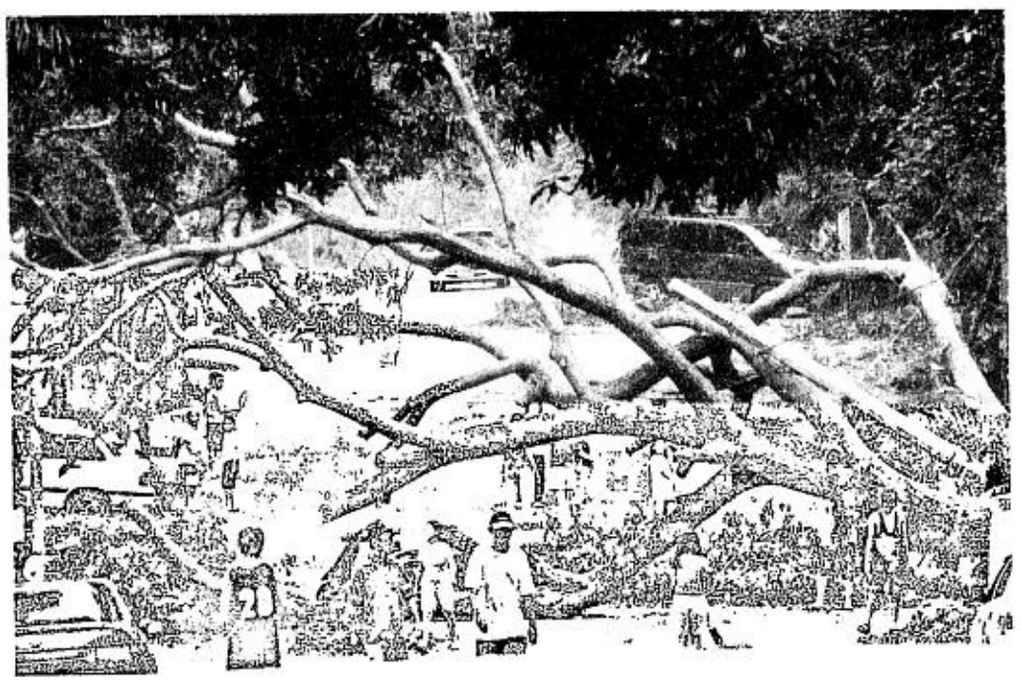
Following the completion of clearing operations and the restoration of 60 percent of electricity to Metro Manila, the three mass rail transit systems resumed normal operations yesterday morning.

LRT Line 2: Back on track

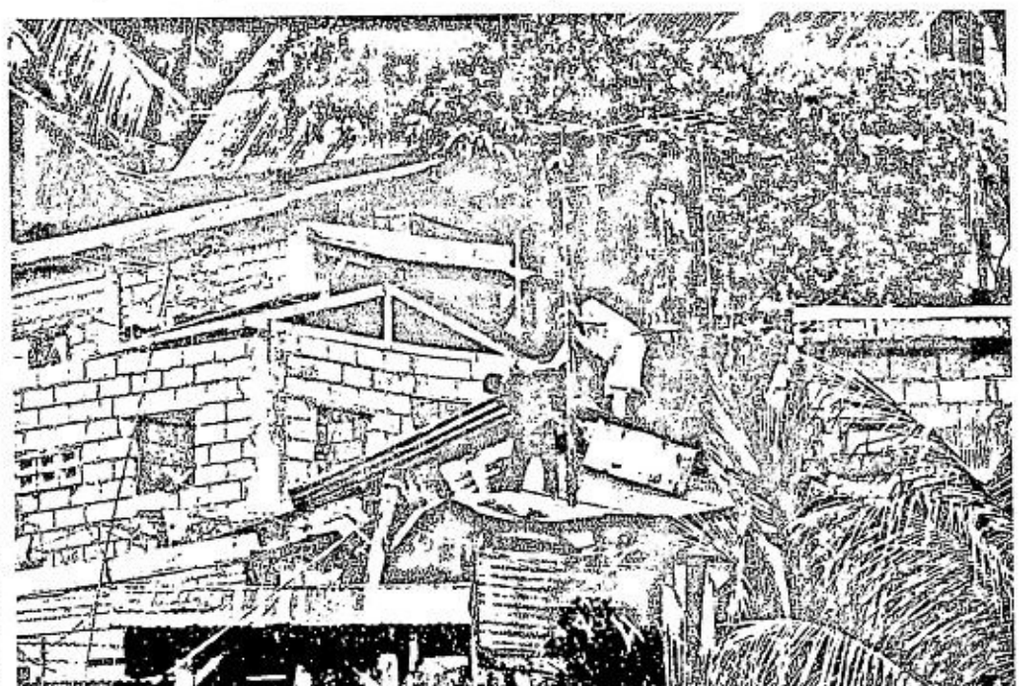
LRT Authority administrator Mel Robles said that all LRT Lines 1 and 2 stations were already running on full power.

MetroStar Express general manager Roberto Lastimoso, meanwhile, said only the Guadalupe sub-station was using generator sets.

LRT Line 1 runs from Monumento to Baclaran, LRT Line 2 from Santolan to Recto and MetroStar from North Edsa to Taft Avenue.



TYPHOON 'MILENYO' AFTERMATH
The branches of a huge tree block Scout Chuatoco Street in Quezon City, forcing residents to use alternative routes to get out of the area. Below, residents in Sitio Talanay, Batasan Hills take advantage of the improvement in the weather to repair the damage to their house. ROMY HOMILLADA



Launching of R. Hidalgo St. as photography haven set

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT IS SET TO formally open next week what is being touted as the country's photography haven.

The inauguration of R. Hidalgo Street in Quiapo—originally scheduled last Friday—was postponed due to typhoon "Milenyo," according to Arnold Atienza, inner city development chair.

He said City Hall workers had to make some repairs, particularly on lamp posts and brick pathways, which were destroyed at the height of "Milenyo."

With its launching as a photographers' haven, R. Hidalgo Street—particularly the portion stretching from Plaza Miranda to P. Gomez Street—will be closed to vehicular traffic and open only to pedestrians.

For several decades, before the area was taken over by vendors, the street was a lively and flourishing trading place where photographers could get anything they needed to practice their craft, especially secondhand cameras and hard-to-find accessories.

Humble beginnings

It was also the place where almost all big photo companies had their humble beginnings.

Apart from the renovations carried out by the city government, photo companies and photographers have proposed the establishment of outdoor cafes where people can hang out, photo galleries where "camera bugs" can hold an exhibit, and a library showcasing books about the craft, among others.

In an earlier interview, advertising photographer John Chua, one of those who conceptualized the project, enumerated various economic benefits from the rehabilitation of R. Hidalgo.

Brisk business

"Business will be brisk and profitable once more. Certainly, this will bring in additional revenues, not only for shop owners and Manila residents, but also for the city government," Chua said.

He added that the plan will not only bring back the important photographic services and supplies sector, but will also greatly improve customers' shopping experience, safety and convenience.

Sidewalk vendors, meanwhile, will soon be accommodated at Quinta Market which is undergoing total renovation.

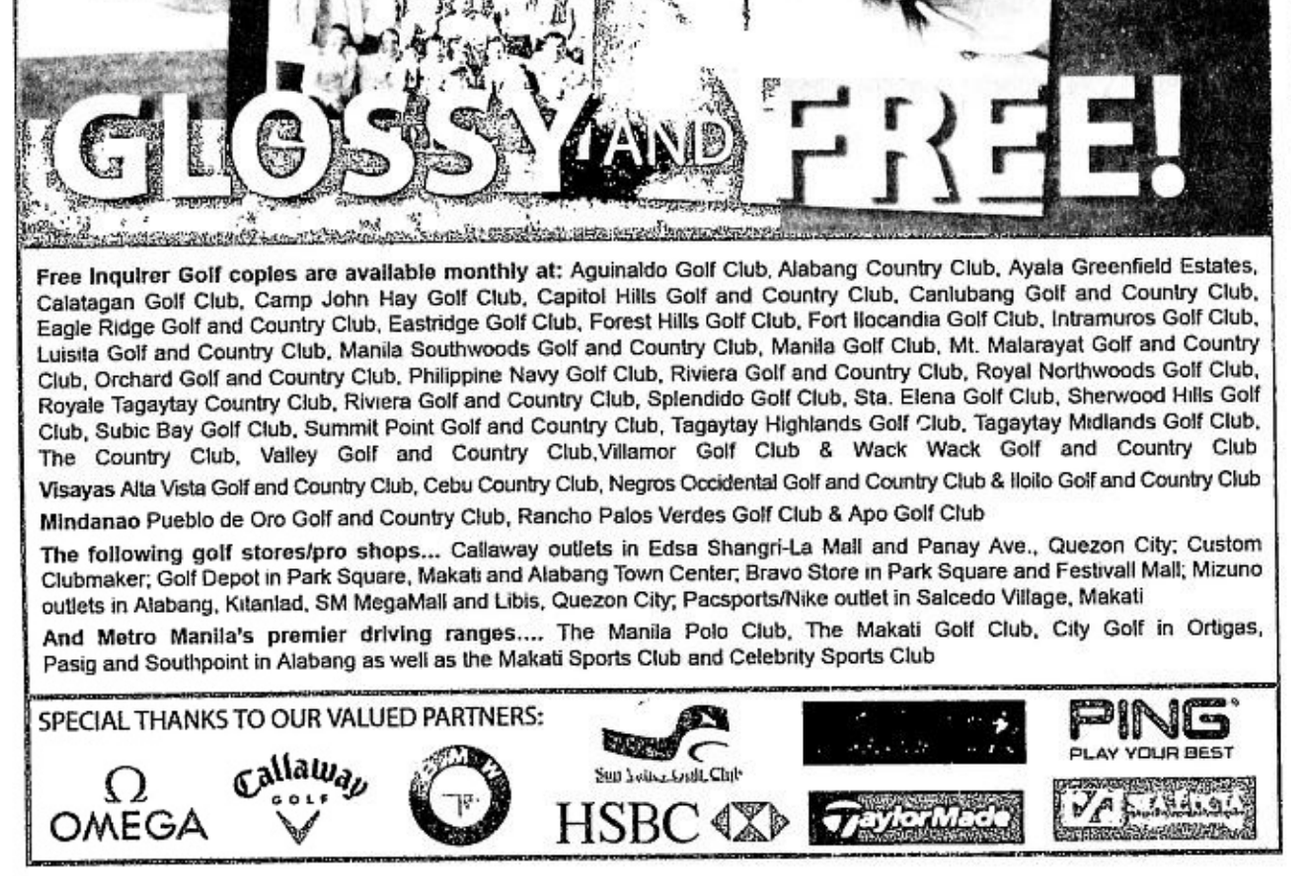
Better idea

But Chua said he and his colleagues have a better idea, such as providing photography-related livelihood training programs for the displaced vendors.

"We can also train them as photographers' assistants," he said. "This is to help create a manpower pool of freelance assistants for photographers in the Metro Manila."

Some of the vendors can still be part of the project, he said, provided that they conform with the "photography" theme of the area by selling related items.

They can sell their wares on uniformly designed movable carts, which can be transferred to either ends of the street when events are held in the area, Chua added.



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Roldan and Yu: A tale of two fathers

Both pray for justice but whose prayer will be answered in the end?

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN AND actor Dennis Roldan is accused of kidnapping a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy last year. He spent almost a year in jail and is currently out on bail.

His alleged victim's father, Roger Yu, has been religiously attending court hearings and is bearing the pain of seeing the man—whom he believes masterminded the kidnapping of his only son—out of jail.

Sitting on opposite sides of the courtroom in the past several months, their own fight for justice has pitted them against each other.

But in pursuing what they believe to be the truth, both have found new meaning in life.

Roldan is drawing strength from his seven children and from his renewed faith, while maintaining that he has been wrongly accused.

Yu is trying to remain strong for his family, saying his fight is no longer his own.

Roldan was arrested on Feb. 20 last year inside his house in Quezon City. Following the filing of kidnapping charges against him along with six others, he was transferred to the Pasig City Jail after spending six months at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center.

ROGER YU PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

YU: I want justice.

Thankful

"I am so thankful I was jailed," Roldan told the INQUIRER in an interview at his house earlier this week.

He was working out on a stationary bike in the middle of the sala when the INQUIRER arrived for the interview at around noon. Inspirational songs blared from radio speakers as he worked out.

"Inside the jail, I found the Lord," he said.

According to Roldan, he spent "long, boring" hours watching television and films and listening to the radio during his first few weeks behind bars. The routine, he said, made him feel "uncomfortable."

Then one day, inmates were invited to a Bible study by some missionaries visiting the city jail. He accepted—just to have an excuse to go out of his cell.

Before the study ended, one of the missionaries gave him a book: Rick Warren's "A Purpose-Driven Life." Roldan said he already had two copies of the book, which he never read, but still took the new book offered to him.

Hooked on a book

He read the first chapter during the days that followed. This was followed by another chapter. Soon, he was reading a chapter every day.

When he reached the chapter about having a covenant with God, he decided to make one of his own on Aug. 29, 2005. It was then that he asked his sister, former actress Isabel Rivas, to bring him a copy of the Bible, which he started to read every afternoon.

Soon, Roldan said, he asked her to bring along a pastor, who started to hold Bible study sessions in his cell.

During court hearings, he added, he would recite chapters and verses from the Bible to his sister and children.

While praying for his application for bail, Roldan said he fasted for 16 days, taking in nothing but water.

Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 261 Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio finally granted him bail in July, saying the prosecution evidence against Roldan so far in the trial was weak. Her decision shocked the prosecution, which had presented 10 witnesses against Roldan and infuriated his alleged victims.

"I used to be a bad guy—you know my reputation. People in the show biz industry know that," he said with a smile.

"I feared no one before I met the Lord. I got involved in illegal businesses like 'jueteng' and jai-alai. I got into a lot of trouble," he added.

But spending months in jail and renewing his faith made him realized that all the while, he was not the brave man he thought he was. "Only God can protect me," Roldan said.

To prove this, he told the INQUIRER that he has already sold his guns—which he always carried before. He said he no longer needs any.

Ironically, Yu now finds it necessary to carry a firearm.

Yu said he used to own a gun when he was still single but he sold it before he got married. But times are different now, he added.

"I own a gun again. I have to protect myself," he said.

Being responsible Chinese-Filipino parents, Yu and his wife said they took precautions for their son, even sending him to a school only meters away from their house.

Life-changing moment

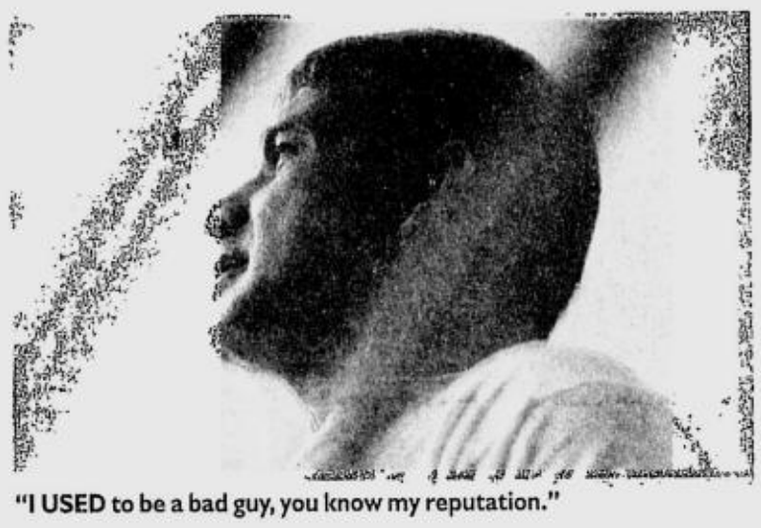
Tragedy struck when they least expected it—and life for the family has never been the same again.

Since the kidnapping, the Yus have been transferring from one place to another.

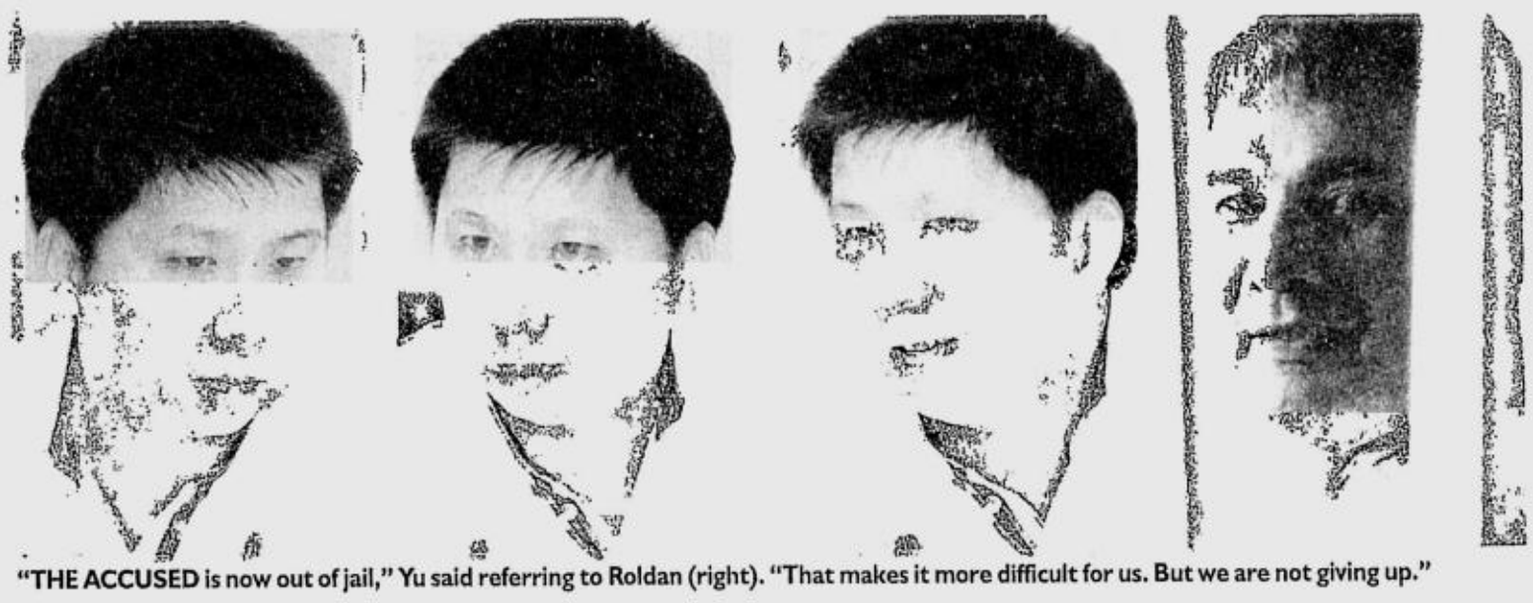
Yu said his son is always surrounded by security escorts, preventing him from playing with other children in the neighborhood as he did before.

"I have turned down many invitations to parties. We can't go to malls anymore, like what we used to do," Yu, who lost a lot of weight since the trial began, also told the INQUIRER.

"I am always on the lookout if someone is following us. We will live with trauma forever," he added.



"I USED to be a bad guy, you know my reputation."



"THE ACCUSED is now out of jail," Yu said referring to Roldan (right). "That makes it more difficult for us. But we are not giving up."

Security-conscious

As part of security precautions, Yu said he no longer stays in his office. He oversees operations of his manufacturing business through cell phones and the Internet.

He admitted that the easiest way would have been for him and his family to leave the country to start a normal life, like what other kidnap victims had done.

But he said he would never abandon his fight.

First, he could not leave his employees, who depend on his business to earn a living. Unlike other residents who have given up on the country, Yu said, "There are still a lot of good things here."

Second, he is pursuing justice not only for his son, "but also for other kidnap victims still searching for justice."

The decision to grant Roldan bail, which prosecution lawyers are currently appealing, has disappointed Yu, but he said this would not stop him or his family in pursuing their case in court.

Not giving up

"The accused is now out of jail. That makes it more difficult for us. But we are not giving up," he said, rage flashing in his eyes.

It is the same determination that brought him to the Movement for the Restoration of Peace and Order, a group of kidnap victims and their families who draw strength from and give support to each other in their collective quest for justice.

Yu is a regular speaker during group meetings: A symbol of strength for other victims also fighting back.

"I tell them that if we don't do something, there will be another victim. If we don't fight back, we will be sending the wrong signal to the criminals," Yu said.

In going after kidnappers and filing cases, he added that he and other victims "are doing our countrymen a favor."

Seeing his son grow up amid trying times for the family only makes him more firm.

Yu said his son would ask while he was preparing to leave early in the morning to attend the court hearings where he was going.

His reply was simple: "I will attend the hearing to keep the bad guys inside the jail so they won't be able to do bad things again."

DENNIS ROLDAN PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

ROLDAN: I want to clear my name.

He is also drawing strength from friends who have remained with him and his family during these trying times, some of whom he met only recently. These friends offer them a place to stay, a car they can use and words to inspire them to go on with their newfound cause.

"There are people we never knew who showed up to offer help. We found true friends," Yu added.

These good Samaritans were enough to partly erase the pain of seeing longtime friends suddenly slip away, people the family knew for many years but have since distanced themselves.

"Perhaps they were afraid they would also be kidnapped, or they thought we would just borrow money from them. They valued their money more than our friendship," Yu said.

The worst of times is also showing Roldan who his true friends are.

"There were people I was expecting to visit me who never showed up even just once. You know, when you are in jail, a short visit really means a lot," he said.

Bigger meaning

They may be up against each other, but these two fathers have found a bigger meaning in their battles.

Yu has been visiting other kidnap victims, walking the extra mile to drop by their houses, giving them strength to fight on.

On the other hand, Roldan has been making weekly visits to the Pasig City Jail to hold Bible study sessions for the detainees.

He said he is praying "for healing on my part and for everyone who was hurt in this case."

Yu, meanwhile, is praying for justice—that he will see the kidnappers of his son behind bars, and that in seeking forgiveness, they will also admit their sins. He said that despite some setbacks, his trust in the country's justice system in the country remains.

But whose prayer will be answered?

Program helps abuse victims come forward

From page A17

in the pilot schools have been required to attend an orientation on Gabay Bata.

"This is to avoid parents storming the school and asking us what we are teaching their children," Henson said with a chuckle.

During the 40-minute weekly lessons, which are integrated into Character Education every Thursday, children are taught the different parts of their bodies, with emphasis on those that are off limits to others. They also learn to discriminate among certain types of touching and to say no to a potential abuser.

But the teachers don't use euphemisms for vagina, penis and breasts.

"We make it a point that teachers use the real names for body parts. We want to show to children that there is nothing wrong with calling their private parts as vagina or penis or breasts because that's what they are really called," Henson said.

But for the younger students, at least for Grades 1 and 2, teachers use dog puppets—which they have named Brownie and Whitie—as teaching aids. For older students, posters and CPTCSA-produced animated films are used to drive home the point.

Yearend presentation

To mark the end of the curriculum for the school year—averaging around 15 to 26 lessons depending on the grade level—each class is required to come up with a presentation, either a puppet show, a cheering session or a skit, to illustrate what they have learned.

GRADE I students from Bayanan Main Elementary School show, through a skit, what they have learned from the weekly lessons on preventing child abuse. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For Henson, the revelations made by 163 students since the start of the project were the most obvious proof that the program works.

The role of Gabay Bata, however, does not end when a student comes forward. Their staff then validates the information through home visits. The student also undergoes counseling, either through Sagip or Gabay, depending on the urgency of the situation, she explained.

"We also give legal assistance to them," she said, adding that the bulk of cases they have filed so far in court involved acts of lasciviousness.

So far, Gabay Bata has already counseled 304 abused children, with 23 serious cases referred to Sagip.

Case solved

As for the 11 boys, their teacher was fired and banned from coming near the school. Although Gabay had insisted that a case be filed against the teacher, the parents of the students begged off.

"What they pushed for was the termination of the teacher. They said they won't file a case but would be happy if he would just be kicked out of the school," Henson said.

Meanwhile, the Grade 5 pupil has slapped rape charges against her stepfather, who remains at large.

After a medico-legal showed proof that she had indeed been raped, the child was turned over to the Sagip center for therapy sessions.

Now, the girl is starting a new life in a convent somewhere in Metro Manila. She told her mother that she wanted to stay there because she felt safer. "One of our staff recently paid her a visit. She looked very happy and was going to school again," Henson related.

Aside from the lessons and therapy sessions, Gabay Bata has held 63 parenting seminars and an information campaign to increase Muntinlupa residents' awareness of the program.

Loving environment

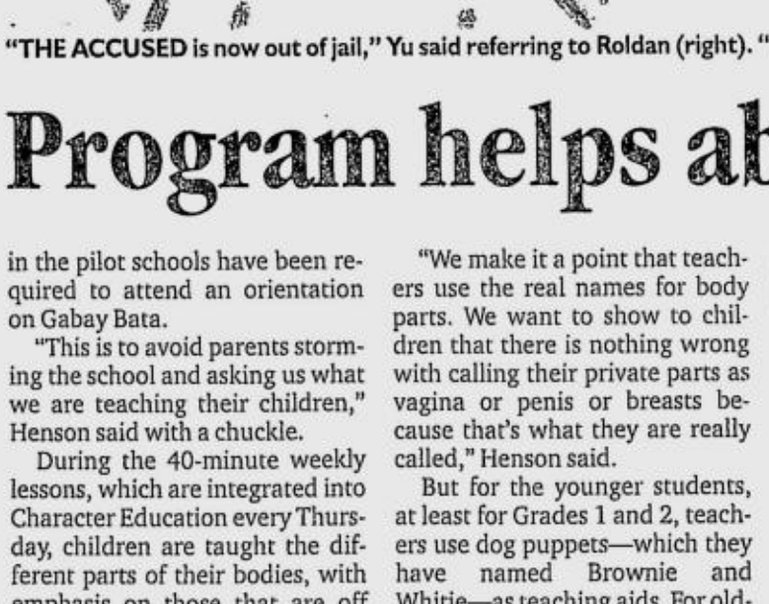
Henson said the seminars were to make sure that parents, as well as the communities in Muntinlupa, were involved in their goal of setting up an integrated support system that would provide a loving environment for abused children.

The organization hopes to implement Gabay Bata in 14 other public elementary schools across the city. But to reach that goal, they would need extra hands from the private sector, she admitted.

Initially, the project was implemented with the help of a $25,000 grant from its mother organization, Zonta International. But to continue the project, the group has been holding bazaars and sponsoring plays to raise much needed funds.

They would also be knocking on the doors of companies in the city soon.

"We want to have happy and free children living in a safe, supportive and loving community. So, we must work together to make this happen," Henson said.



A PARENT reaffirms her commitment to her children's well-being during a Gabay Bata effective parenting seminar. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Once while in Berlin, a guy approached her and asked: 'Do you want to go to bed with me?' She gave him a dressing down, but she realized that some foreigners wrongly think that if you are a Filipina, either you are a DH or a sex worker

Helping migrant women & their families

AÑONUEVO at the center the overseas Filipino workers helped build in San Pablo City: "When you're abroad, people think you are well-off. But that is not always the case."
KENNETH M. DEL ROSARIO

By Kenneth M. del Rosario
Contributor

ESTRELLA "MAI" Dizon-Añonuevo, 47, went to Germany in the late 1980s to pursue her studies but later found her calling in helping fellow Filipina migrant workers who are in need.

Going with her heart's desire, she gave up a promising, luxurious career in favor of a more noble work to address problems faced by many Filipinos here and abroad.

Already a nurse by profession and a master's degree holder in Social and Development Enterprises from the Asian Institute of Management, Mai left the country in 1987 when she was 29 years old to pursue yet another master's degree, this time in Sociology at the University of Cologne in Germany.

The seventh of 10 siblings, five of them in Germany, Mai left together with her husband, Augustus, and son, Kim. (The couple would later have another son, Gio.)

It took Mai a while to recover from the initial culture shock of her new environment.

"Adjusting to the culture of the Germans was not a walk in the park," Mai told the INQUIRER.

She said that she and her family had to quickly learn how to speak German and become accustomed to the German way of life.

Frankfurt center

Two years later, in 1989, her study was put on hold when the Frankfurt Institute for Women Research asked her to lead a team that would conduct a study to help the German government find out and address the social needs and problems of Filipinos and other female migrant workers in Germany.

"I was actually surprised that they hired me since these kinds of jobs are not usually offered to foreign women like me," she said, adding that her people skills and experience in women-organizing helped her land the job over other "applicants who had better credentials."

It was during this research where she got to meet and talk to fellow Filipinas and discovered how unfortunate many of them were in Germany.

For five years, Mai empathically listened to the heartbreaking stories of Filipina migrant workers, many of whom went to Germany undocumented.

Based on her interviews with hundreds of Pinays, she concluded that the differences in culture, women trafficking and contract substitution were among the most typical problems of female migrant workers in Germany.

She remembered a conversation with a Filipina, a teacher in the Philippines who went to Germany as a cultural dancer only to find out that the she would end up working as a topless dancer.

Mai also revealed how rampant discrimination was against foreigners, especially female Asians.

"When you're a Filipina, they think you're either a prostitute or a mail-order bride," she said, stressing how hard it was to see people unfairly looking down at them as if they were less of a human being.

She recalls her own untoward predicament when one time, while she was waiting for a train on her way to campus, a German guy came up to her and asked if she was a Filipina.

Coming home

Being friendly as she is, she smiled and said yes. The man then blatantly and openly asked her: "Do you want to go to bed with me?" Caught off guard, she was speechless for a moment. When she finally recovered from the insult, she unleashed a flurry of words to the man until he left the premises.

After completing her research in 1993, Mai, together with her team, published the report in a book titled "Ein Traum vom besseren Leben (Dream of A Better Life)." Shortly after, Mai and her family decided to go back to the Philippines for good.

Knowing the situation of the Filipinos working in Germany, Mai wanted to see the other half of the coin—and "see the bigger picture." She wanted to know, this time, how it was like for the families of the OFWs left behind here in the country. That is why she quickly accepted an offer by the Bread for the World, a German agency providing assistance to projects in developing country, to do a research exactly on this, this time in San Pablo City in Laguna.

Cost of migration

"Admittedly, the economic benefits of the remittances from overseas Filipino workers are unparalleled," she said, referring to billions of pesos the country receives annually from OFWs.

However, Mai's research on the situation of the OFW families left behind unraveled social costs of migration and other adverse effects.

It was the children, Mai's study showed, who suffered the most when a family member, particularly the mother, leaves the country for work.

"It's funny how many Filipinas go out of the country to work, many of them as domestic helpers, so they can send their children to school," she said. "Unfortunately, many of their children don't get to finish school because, without the mother's guidance, they either get pregnant or get someone pregnant," she added.

Mai recalls an interview with a woman, a teacher in the Philippines, who went to Hong Kong and worked as a DH for fifteen years so she could build a new house for her family and send her children to school. The woman did get to remodel their house. But as luck would have it, neither of her children got to finish school and, on top of that, her husband left her for another woman. She then rhetorically asked Mai: "Did I make the right choice?"

Atikha is born

"When you're abroad," she said, "people automatically think that you're doing fine and you're well-off. But that is not always the case."

She added that with her experience and knowledge of what goes on—both with the Filipinos who leave the country and the families left behind, she realized that there is a serious problem in need of an effective solution.

With the help of church people and fellow OFWs in their community in San Pablo, Mai formed an organization in 1996 that would look after the welfare of overseas Filipino workers, women and family, called Atikha, a Tagalog word in Laguna that means achievement.

Initially, Mai and her group focused on giving counseling to family members, especially children experiencing difficulties with the absence of either of the two parents.

But through the years, with the support of local government, private and business sectors, Atikha has evolved to address the economic aspects of migration. The group now has projects that deal with how Filipinos abroad can wisely save and invest their money so they may not need to go out of the country anymore in the future.

Assistance from the San Pablo City Mayor Vicente Amante and institutions like the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund, among others, help keep the organization going.

Right now, Mai is busy putting together a business project for Atikha in their OFW and Women Center in San Pablo, which may provide for an alternative source of income for Filipino workers who do not wish to leave the country and their families behind anymore.

Source of happiness

As of the moment, Mai has no intentions of going abroad again to work. In fact, she has declined offers to work in the United States as nurse and chose to stay here to help her fellow countrymen.

Mai urges OFW families left behind to be conscious of helping save the money their relatives send from abroad and to keep constant communication with them.

"Helping people, especially children, is my source of happiness," Mai said, adding that she has no regrets whatsoever that she stayed here for good. "I'm not rich, but I am moved to tears whenever I see that I was able to help people."

How to double your money in 5 years from a land investment

By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

HOW DO YOU ANALYZE whether or not you should buy a specific property as pure investment? Buying a property you do not need nor intend to use is a matter of estimating the effective financial return to you come the time you will sell it.

Let us say you are told that a property being offered to you will double in five years because of its special location. Using the Rule of 72, this means that if you can sell the property in five years at double the price, your returns would be 14.4 percent per annum (i.e. 72 divided by 5).

Is this, then, a good investment? Yes, if it actually doubles in five years. But what are the chances that the price will, or will not, double in five years? Nobody can really tell. The only practical way to assess this possibility is to study actual and historical behavior of real estate prices of similar properties in the area. Then evaluate this information in relation to the real estate development plans of both government and private companies for the area.

In any case, investing in land is not necessarily a liquid investment. It may not be that easy to sell that property when the time comes that you will need the cash. So you must be sure that you will not need that money for at least three to five years.

Let's say that you decided that you really want to speculate on this real estate but you should not invest more than P7,000 per month even if you can afford to invest more. You have decided that you want to spread your risks.

Let us presume further that this piece of land is 1,000 sq m for only P400,000. The owner is even willing to accept installment payments provided you make a 10-percent down payment of P40,000. Let us assume that you have the money for the down payment.

The terms of payment for the balance of P360,000 are for installment payments of P7,000 per month for five years or 60 months. This is actually equivalent to paying an interest rate of only 6.24 percent per annum for the P360,000 balance due. This is a good deal because of the low interest rate.

Check area for squatters

My comments are:

• In terms of the money involved the deal does look okay if:

a) You are sure that you will have at least P7,000 monthly inflow for five years that you will have no other need for it except to pay for this property.

b) Investigate with the Registry of Deeds that the value of property recently sold in the area to cost really at least P[illegible] per meter.

c) Check out the Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) is clean and that it really corresponds to the property that was shown to you.

d) Visit property to see that it does not have any squatters.

e) Compute that you have the budget to pay for real estate taxes and other expenses to maintain the land free of *talahib* and future possible squatters.

f) Ensure that the TCT can readily be transferred after full payment. It is better to consult with a lawyer on this.

• As stated, you should try to understand if there is real basis in expecting the value to double in five years. *Chismis* can never be reliable. You should go there yourself and check with the Registry of Deeds and the companies can change. Then, you have to make an educated guess if the future increase in value will give returns that are at least higher than average annual inflation rate of 7 percent.

If the property appreciated by only 7 percent annually, which is the average increase of property values, then the sales value of the property after five years will be P561,000 after a 6-percent capital gains tax. This will mean that the effective return of this investment will only be 5.1 percent. This is lower than the average inflation rate of 7 percent and is therefore not that attractive as an investment.

Include income

• You should be able to sell the land at P600 per square meter after five years if you want to make a return equal to at least the inflation rate of 7 percent. You have to pay for the transfer of the TCT (about 2 percent of selling price) after you complete the installment payments plus capital gains tax of 6 percent when you sell the property.

• If you are able to find other uses for the real estate to give income, you should include that income in the computation of the returns derived from the property. This would of course improve the return on that property investment.

• Let us assume that there is a small building on the property for the terms given above. Let's say that you can rent out space in that building. In such a case, when you estimate rental income, remember to deduct the following from her rental income:

a) Cost of daily maintenance if there will be more than one tenant in the building as there will be common areas.

b) Twenty-percent vacancy rate. This means that there will be no income for about 2.5 months for year.

c) Cost of major repairs of the building

d) Possible nonpayment of rent by the tenants

e) In addiction to real estate tax, municipal permits and income taxes

Others buy real estate to develop into buildings to rent or sell, or into condominiums. This can be profitable but involve bigger capital and/or borrowings and a lot more serious business management expertise.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Brazil plane crashes over Amazon; 155 aboard

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—A BRAZILian airline passenger plane with 155 people on board disappeared over the Amazon jungle and was believed to have crashed, local officials and news reports said.

The brand-new Boeing 737-800 operated by Brazilian low-cost carrier Gol disappeared Friday afternoon after losing radar contact during a flight from the principal Amazon city of Manaus to the national capital, Brasilia, the company said.

The mayor of a remote town in the central state of Mato Grosso said the plane had crashed on a farm in Peixoto de Azevedo municipality. The report could not immediately be confirmed by other authorities.

"From the information we have, the plane fell on Jarina farm," Mayor Valter Mioto said in an interview. "Hospitals in the region are ready to receive the injured." The head of Brazil's airports authority, Infraero, said the Gol aircraft collided with another, smaller plane, Globo news agency reported. The report could not be confirmed.

"It will be hard to find something at this time of night but it is not impossible. The search continues," said Cosette Castro, spokesperson for the Brazilian aviation agency.

Five Brazilian air force jets were searching for the missing plane into the evening, Infraero said.

Gol said Flight 1907 was carrying 149 passengers and six crew members.

The plane had been received new from Boeing on Sept. 12 and had only 200 flight hours, the company said.

Brazil's civil aviation authority said the plane lost contact around the town of Sao Felix do Xingu. The flight left Manaus at 2:36 p.m.

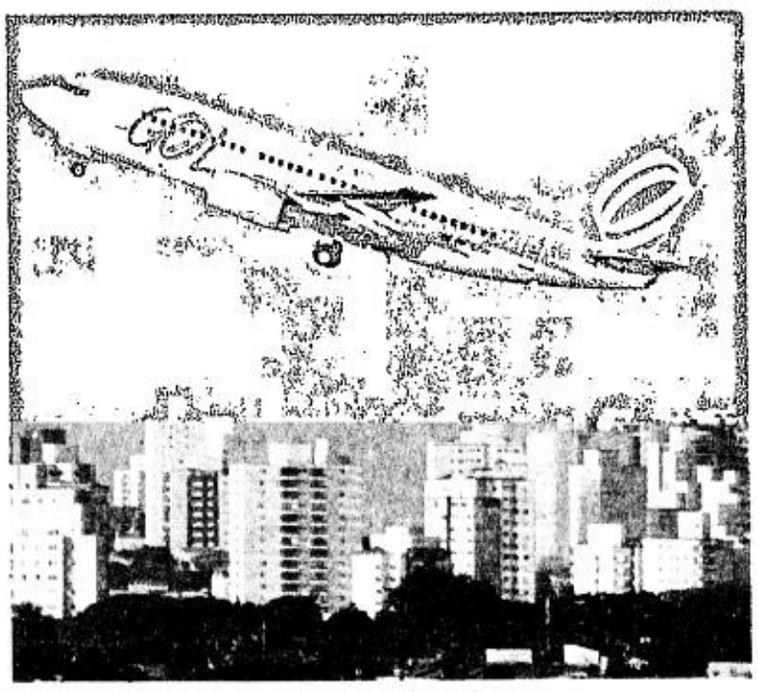
At Brasilia airport, dozens of friends and relatives, many weeping, gathered anxiously to await news.

Gol is a low-cost carrier that has expanded rapidly since its founding in 2001 to become Brazil's No. 2 airline and to offer flights to neighboring countries.

With its orange and white colors and stylized casual uniforms based on US no-frills carriers, it is an instantly recognizable brand in Brazil and one of its most successful new businesses.

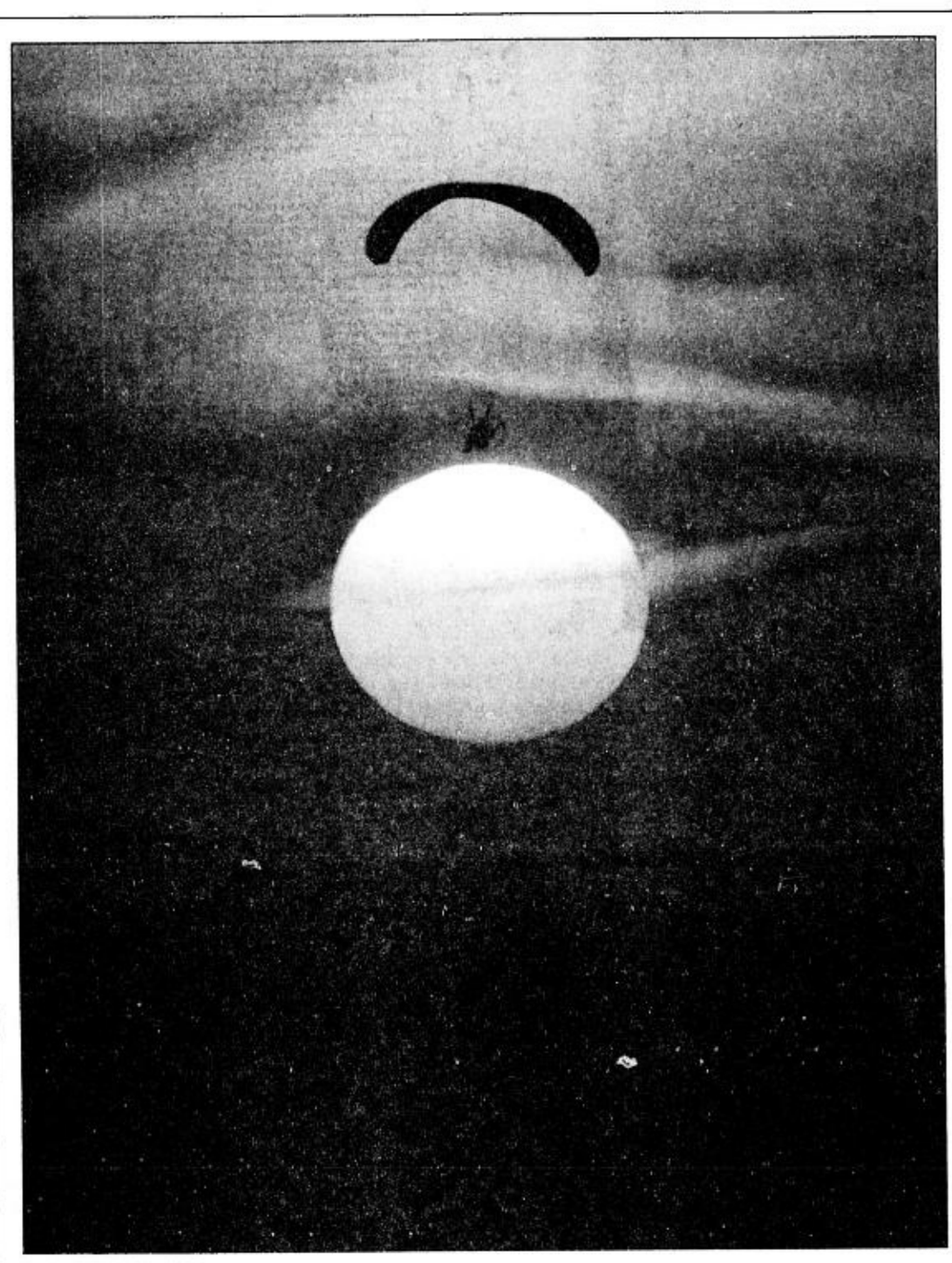
Manaus is host to a number of foreign-owned manufacturing plants making motorcycles, computers and other goods in its duty free zone. It is also a base for tourism in the Amazon, the world's largest rain forest, and a headquarters for several environmental groups.

In the last major airline crash in Brazil, 33 people were killed when a plane belonging to regional carrier Rico Linhas Aereas crashed in the Amazon flying from Sao Paulo de Olivenca to Manaus on May 14, 2004. *Reuters*



FILE photo shows a Boeing 737-700 from GOL Airlines taking off in Sao Paulo. AP

A RELATIVE of a passenger on board the Gol airline flight 1907 reacts outside the Brasilia airport, Sept. 29. AFP



SUNSET SIGHT
A pilot of motorized paraglide flies over the setting sun near the town of Dunakeszi, some 10 km north of Hungarian metropol of Budapest, Sept. 29. AFP

Detainee bill will add to Bush's powers

WASHINGTON—WITH THE FInal passage through Congress of the detainee treatment bill, President Bush on Friday achieved a signal victory, shoring up with legislation his campaign against terrorism in the face of challenges from critics and the courts.

Rather than reining in the formidable presidential powers that Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have asserted since Sept. 11, 2001, the law gives some of those powers a solid statutory foundation. In effect it allows the president to identify enemies, imprison them indefinitely and interrogate them—with a ban on the harshest treatment—beyond the reach of the full court reviews traditionally afforded criminal defendants and ordinary prisoners.

Taken as a whole, the law will give the president more power over terrorism suspects than he had before the Supreme Court decision this summer in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld. It does, however, grant detainees brought before military commissions limited protections initially opposed by the White House.

The bill does more than allow the president to determine the meaning and application of the Geneva Conventions; it strips the courts of jurisdiction to hear challenges to his interpretation. And it broadens the definition of "unlawful enemy combatant." *New York Times*

W. House denies hiding Iraq violence

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE House on Friday denied willfully understating violence in Iraq, one of a barrage of charges stemming from a new book that reportedly paints top US officials in disarray over the war.

At issue is "State of Denial," the new tome by veteran journalist Bob Woodward, whose reporting on the Watergate scandal three decades ago helped force then-president Richard Nixon to resign.

According to the Washington Post, where Woodward is an assistant managing editor, the writer found that the Pentagon in May predicted in a secret intelligence estimate that violence in Iraq would increase through 2007.

And in a recent interview with CBS television, Woodward also said that US President George W. Bush's administration was keeping secret that the frequency of attacks on US troops in Iraq has sharply increased.

"Nobody's tried to mislead anyone about it," countered Bush spokesperson Tony Snow, who declined to spell out whether US forces are facing more or fewer attacks because "classified briefings remain classified."

"I can neither confirm nor deny" that US troops are attacked every 15 minutes, said the spokesperson. "Sometimes the attacks go up and sometimes they've gone down."

Snow confirmed Woodward's claim Bush has been taking advice on the strategy for Iraq from Henry Kissinger, the controversial Vietnam war-era national security adviser turned secretary of state.

"The role is not an extraordinary one," the spokesperson said after speaking to Kissinger. "The president has a lot of people in, and he listens to them. And Dr. Kissinger was one of them."

"Dr. Kissinger says he agrees with the overall thrust of American policy. He thinks we're doing the right things. He said he also may have times when he disagrees on details," according to Snow.

On another front, Snow denied that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld feuded to the point that he would not return her telephone calls.

"I talked with secretary Rice today and her quote was, 'This is ridiculous, and I told that to Woodward,'" said Snow, who added that Rice and Rumsfeld take part in a daily telephone call with the national security adviser.

But he stopped well short of denying another bombshell reportedly in Woodward's book: that former White House chief of staff Andrew Card had twice pushed Bush to fire Rumsfeld.

Snow said he had not yet spoken to Card about the claim, but stressed: "It's typical, as a matter of fact, quite often in administrations at this point people are asked to submit their resignations."

"People serve at the pleasure of the president. If tomorrow the president decided that he didn't want Don Rumsfeld to serve as secretary of defense, Don Rumsfeld would no longer serve as secretary of defense," he said. *AFP*

Republican quits over male page

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICAN Mark Foley of Florida resigned from the US House of Representatives on Friday after revelations of compromising e-mails to a 16-year-old male congressional page, the House speaker announced.

"He sent that letter to the governor (of Florida), which is the process to do that, and he's laid it down for the House, so he has resigned before the House," House Speaker Dennis Hastert said.

Foley was favored to win reelection against Democrat challenger Tim Mahoney on Nov. 7, in legislative contests that could lose Republicans control both houses of Congress and Democrats smell blood.

According to ABC television, the former congressional page, 16, complained about e-mails he received from the six-term lawmaker.

Foley co-chaired the House Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, and recently introduced legislation to crack down on Internet child pornography sites.

According to ABC, the page forwarded some of Foley's e-mails to a friend, with his own assessment: "Maybe it is just me being paranoid, but seriously. This freaked me out," he wrote. "Sick sick sick sick sick." "Did you have fun at your conference ... what do you want for your birthday coming up ... what stuff do you like to do," said some of the samples. *AFP*

WorldBriefs

12 dead in suicide blast in Afghan capital

KABUL—Twelve people were killed and scores wounded in a suicide attack near the interior ministry in the Afghan capital Saturday, the ministry said. The bomber blew himself up among a crowd of people gathered at a gate to the ministry compound in the crowded center of the city, spokesperson Zemarai Bashary said. "As a result 12 people are dead and 42 persons are injured," he said. Ten of the dead were civilians and the other two were policemen, he said. *AFP*

Russian officials pull out of Georgia

TBILISI—Russia started pulling out some of its diplomats, military staff and their families from Georgia on Friday as the small ex-Soviet state pressed spying charges against a group of Russian army officers. Nato, which pro-Western Georgia wants to join to the dismay of Russia, urged both sides to show restraint but said it had no clear role to play in helping defuse the row. A senior US State Department official issued a similar call in Zurich. A Tbilisi court formally charged four Russian army officers, whose arrest on accusations of spying for the GRU military intelligence sparked the crisis, and ordered them kept under arrest for at least two months. Georgia depends on Russia for gas supplies, giving Moscow another potential lever over its poorer neighbor. The Russian electricity monopoly UES controls the Georgian power grid and two hydro-electric plants. An estimated one million Georgians work in Russia and send money home, keeping the country in the sway of its neighbor. *Reuters*

Principal shot dead in rural US school

CAZENOVIA, WISCONSIN—A teenager who pried open his family's gun cabinet brought two weapons to his rural school and shot the principal to death after a struggle with adults and other students, authorities said. The 15-year-old was taken into custody after the shooting Friday and charged as an adult with murder, the district attorney said. No one else was hurt. Authorities said the teen, identified as Eric Hainstock, had complained about being teased by other students and decided to confront teachers and the principal using a shotgun and handgun taken from his parent's bedroom. The shooting also came one day after the principal gave him a disciplinary warning for having tobacco on school grounds, according to a criminal complaint. *AP*

Gunman shoots into Australian mosque

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA—An unidentified gunman fired into a mosque in western Australia packed with hundreds of Muslims observing the holy month of Ramadan, but no one was hurt, police said Saturday. Around 400 worshippers were praying at the mosque in suburban Mirrabooka in the west coast city of Perth when the shooting occurred Friday evening, Western Australia state police Inspector Neville Patterson said. The gunman, who fled the scene in a green sports utility vehicle, has yet to be identified, he said. Patterson said it was unclear whether the shooting was an attempt to murder or to terrorize. *AP*

India's wells are running dry

TEJA KA BAS, INDIA—BHANWAR Lal Yadav, once a cultivator of cucumber and wheat, has all but given up growing food.

No more suffering through drought. He has reinvented himself as a vendor of what counts here as the most precious of commodities: the water under his land.

Each year he bores ever deeper. His well now reaches 130 feet down. Four times a day he starts up his electric pumps. The water that gurgles up, he sells to the local government—13,000 gallons a day. He also sells some to thirsty neighbors.

He reaps handsomely, and he said he plans to continue for as long as it lasts.

"However long it runs, it runs," Yadav said. "We know we will all be ultimately doomed."

Yadav's words could well prove prophetic for his country. Efforts like his—multiplied by some 19 million wells nationwide—have helped India deplete its groundwater at an alarming pace over the last few decades.

The country is running through its groundwater so fast that scarcity could threaten whole regions like this one, drive people off the land and ultimately stunt the country's ability to farm and feed its people.

With the population soaring past one billion and with a driving need to boost agricultural production, Indians are tapping their groundwater faster than nature can replenish it, so fast that they are hitting deposits formed at the time of the dinosaurs.

Indian surveyors have divided the country into 5,723 geographic blocks. Water resources in more than 1,000 are considered either "overexploited," meaning more water is drawn on average than is replenished by rain, or "critical," meaning they are dangerously close to it.

Twenty years ago, according to the Central Groundwater Board, only 250 blocks fell into those categories.

But even fertile, rain-drenched pockets of the country are not immune.

Consider, for instance, that in Punjab, India's northern breadbasket state, 79 percent of groundwater divisions are classified as overexploited or critical; in neighboring Haryana, 59 percent; and in southern tropical Tamil Nadu, 46 percent.

"We have come to the worst already," was the verdict of A. Sekhar, who until recently was an adviser on water to the Planning Commission of India. At this rate, he said, the number of areas at risk is likely to double in the next dozen years.

The crisis has been exacerbated by good intentions gone awry and poor planning by state governments, which are responsible for regulating water. *New York Times*

INDIAN Hindu devotees offer flowers as part of prayers on the second day of the Durga Puja festival in New Delhi, Sept. 30. AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

New Thai premier will have free hand, says coup leader

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S NEW CIVILIAN PRIME minister will have a free hand in running the country, its military leader said on Friday, trying to ease fears about the army casting its shadow over a return to democracy and beyond.

"I can assure you it is impossible that we will control the government," coup leader General Sonthi Boonyaratglin told Reuters at Army Headquarters in his first formal interview with a foreign news organization.

"We will be the government's tool to keep peace." Sonthi, head of the Council for Democratic Reform (CDR) which ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Sept. 19, said a stop-gap constitution would come into force on Sunday.

After that a candidate for prime minister would be submitted to revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej for approval.

He declined to name Thaksin's successor, who will oversee the drafting of a final charter over the next nine months. Thai media focused on respected ex-army chief Surayud Chulanon who appeared to be the favorite of at least one CDR member.

"I like him. I prefer him. Surayud is my choice, but I don't have the power to choose," General Winai Phattiyakul said at a roundtable discussion with foreign correspondents on Friday.

A former army commander-in-chief, Surayud is a senior royal adviser with a reputation as a military reformer and modernizer who recognized the need to keep soldiers out of politics.

SURAYUD REUTERS

"People respect him very highly, but it's not about him any more. It's not about Surayud as a person. It's all about the CDR," said one Bangkok-based human rights worker who asked not to be identified.

Human rights groups are worried the army's decision to stay on as a Council for National Security (CNS) while a final charter is worked out will undermine its independence.

The interim charter gives the CNS the power to fire the civilian government, Foreign Ministry official Krit Garnjana-Goonchornbut said, but "it is a power that is in reserve. I don't think they foresee a situation to resort to it." Sonthi said the CNS would only play a role in security matters, such as tackling an insurgency in the Muslim far south where more than 1,700 people have been killed since 2004.

Sonthi, 59, and the first Muslim army chief in the overwhelmingly Buddhist nation, said people claiming to be leaders of the insurgency had approached the army for talks, but it was unclear if they were behind the violence. *Reuters*

Critics: Thaksin used power to enrich family

BANGKOK, THAILAND—WHEN fallen Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra endorsed a multimillion dollar government loan to Burma -two years ago, it was billed as a chance to help the impoverished country finance construction and telecommunications projects using Thai suppliers.

What the billionaire tycoon neglected to mention was that the $97 million in low-interest assistance would also benefit Shin Corp., a telecommunications conglomerate controlled by his family.

The Burma loan, critics said, was just one example of how Thaksin used his office during his five years in power to boost the fortunes of his media and telecommunications empire and enrich his family.

The allegations of massive corruption and abuse of power were a major factor in Thaksin's downfall, which came Sept. 19 when senior army officers staged a coup while the prime minister attended a United Nations meeting in New York. He is now staying in London.

During his time in power, the Thaksin family's business empire grew so fast that investment experts told their clients that stocks yielding high profits were "Thaksin stock."

Helped by government concessions, Shin Corp.'s stock soared 86 percent after he took office in 2001. The Thaksin-controlled company Advanced Info Service more than doubled, while SC Asset Corp. increased by 72 percent.

"I have so many cases where Thaksin abused his position to give favors to companies related to his family," said Somkiat Tangkitvanich, a researcher at the think tank Thailand Development Research Institute, who estimates that two-thirds of Shin Corp.'s market capitalization in 2003 was a result of government connections. *AP*

Al-Qaida number two Zawahiri lashes out at Bush, the Pope, West

AL-QAIDA number two Ayman al-Zawahiri delivering a speech in a June video grab. AFP

DUBAI—AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI, the al-Qaida number two, on Friday called US President George W. Bush a liar who had "failed in his war against al-Qaida," and launched a scathing verbal attack on western targets including the pope and the United Nations.

In an 18-minute video posted on the Internet, Zawahiri called Bush an "executioner, responsible for the spilling of Muslim blood," and said he had failed in his war against the terror outfit headed by Osama bin Laden.

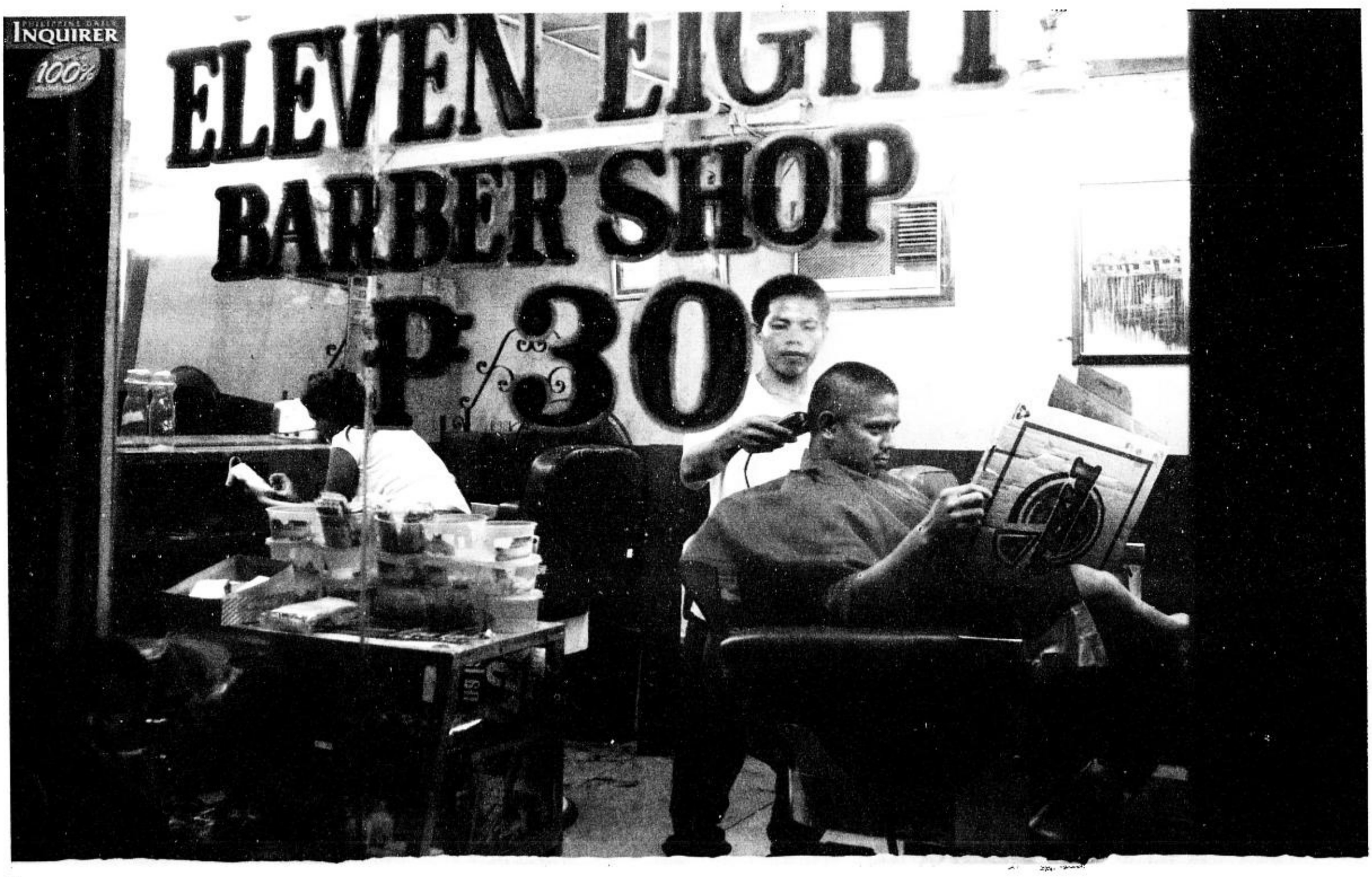
Zawahiri begged Muslims to support the mujahedeen in Iraq and Afghanistan "by all possible means" as these countries were the "field of battle against the contemporary Crusade." He hit out at "defeatist" Arab governments and Muslim preachers, and called for rejection of all resolutions recognizing the "Zionist entity." On Thursday, Islamist websites on the Internet had said there would be a new video message posted by Zawahiri entitled " Bush, the pope, Darfur and the Crusades." Zawahiri branded Pope Benedict XVI an "imposter for his attitude to Islam and the Arab world." Zawahari was referring to the pope's recent speech in Germany in which, critics say, the head of the Roman Catholic Church seemed to link Islam and violence.

The pope's Sept. 12 speech in which he quoted a medieval Christian emperor who equated Islam with violence has touched off a furor in the Muslim world.

Also in the video message, the righthand man to Bin Laden called for a holy war in Sudan's Darfur region against the "crusaders ... of the UN." Zawahiri called for "Muslims to join a jihad in Darfur against the forces of the crusaders related to the United Nations." The United States has been leading international efforts to force Sudan to accept the deployment of a 20,000-strong UN peacekeeping force to halt ethnic violence in its western Darfur region.

At least 200,000 people have died and some 2.5 million others have fled their homes because of the unrest which began in early 2003 when African rebels launched a revolt to gain more autonomy from the Arab-dominated Khartoum government.

The UN Security Council passed a resolution last month mandating deployment of the peacekeepers, to replace an underfunded and ineffective African Union force in Darfur, but Sudan has rejected the demand. *AFP*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Woods off to best start in six years, leads by 5 /A27

JOHN Paul Cuan of UST issues a pass off JC Intal of Ateneo during their game yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Volleyball tries to do an SBP

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, volleyball is planning to do a basketball.

That is what Philippine Volleyball Federation president Roger Banzuela had in mind as he set to propose crucial amendments to the PVF constitution aiming to hand power to people "who can help the association financially."

Citing the case of the Sama-

VOLLEYBALL/ A26

Tigers maul Eagles, forge rubber match

Deciding Game 3 set tomorrow

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SANTO TOMAS Tigers again displayed the heart and guts many thought they'd lost after their Game 1 collapse.

After getting blasted for their last-second complacency that led to the Ateneo Blue Eagles' miraculous 73-72 escape, the Tigers came back snarling with ferocity yesterday, rampaging to an 87-71 victory to forge a do-or-die duel for the UAAP men's basketball championship tomorrow.

GAME TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
3 p.m.— Ateneo vs UST (Game 3-Finals)

The Eagles did all they can to stop main threat Jervy Cruz, but failed to shackle the rest of the Tigers, who completely dominated Game 2 of the best-of-three Finals series at the crowded Araneta Coliseum.

Dylan Ababou sparked the Tigers' early rally to finish with 22 points and nine rebounds off the bench. Jojo Duncil also recovered from a mediocre Game 1 outing with a 20-point performance.

"These are talented and gifted players," said UST coach Pido Jarencio. "But I told them them that they can't just be promising, they have to show their game on the basketball court."

The Tigers displayed a sense of urgency right in the first half.

Getting a huge lift from their second stringers, the Tigers opened the second period with a 9-0 burst for their first double-digit lead, 30-20.

June Dizon and Ababou, who strung up nine points in the second quarter, jumpstarted the Tigers' offensive onslaught.

The Tigers led by as many as 13 points in the first half, 44-31, as Duncil also joined in the attack by pouring in seven consecutive points.

It was a miserable second period for the Eagles, with only Intal carrying the fight for the Eagles by scoring 12 points in the quarter.

The Eagles weren't only off the mark from the field. Even at the free throw line, the Eagles only sank two of seven in the second canto.

When the Eagles crept back early in the fourth period, 65-61, the Tigers showed composure this time.

Anthony Espiritu defused the comeback with a three-pointer. And in a couple of minutes, the Tigers put the lead back up by 13 points, 74-61.

The Eaglets made up for their seniors' setback after clinching the juniors crown with a 69-61 decision of the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws in their winner-take-all Game 3 match.

Raymond Austria of Ateneo, the beefy son of coach Leo Austria, bagged the MVP award in the juniors division.

Austria was also honored in the Mythical Five along with teammate Mike Gamboa, Socrates Rivera and Mark Lopez of FEU, and Erwin Duran of the University of the East.

Ateneo' s Cassy Tioseco clinched the MVP plum in the women's division.

The UST Tigresses bagged the women's crown after repulsing the FEU Lady Tams, 67-59. Rem Buenacosa led the Tigresses to their first title in 11 years.

The scores:

First Game (Women)

UST 67-Buenacosa 23, Orillano 18, Bacaro 13, Gregorio 6, Noscal 4, Vinas 3, Briones 0, Leonardo 0.

FEU 59-Rivera 19, Adriano 14, Borja 9, Jose 9, Sernal 4, Mercado 4, Nido 0, Resulta 0, Positos 0, Moleno 0.

Quarters: 20-16, 36-33, 55-43, 67-59

Second Game (Jrs)

ATENEO 69-Gamboa 15, Katipunan 10, Austria 10, Gonzaga 9, Balmaceda 7, Golla 6, Rivera 5, Tiongson 2, Enriquez 2, Dumrique 2, Aportadera 1, Valera 0, Gamboa 0.

FEU 61-Rivera 20, Pagula 10, Banal 9, Knuttel 6, Rosales 6, A. Paulino 4, J. Paulino 0, Gadia 0, Argamino 0, Rocha 0.

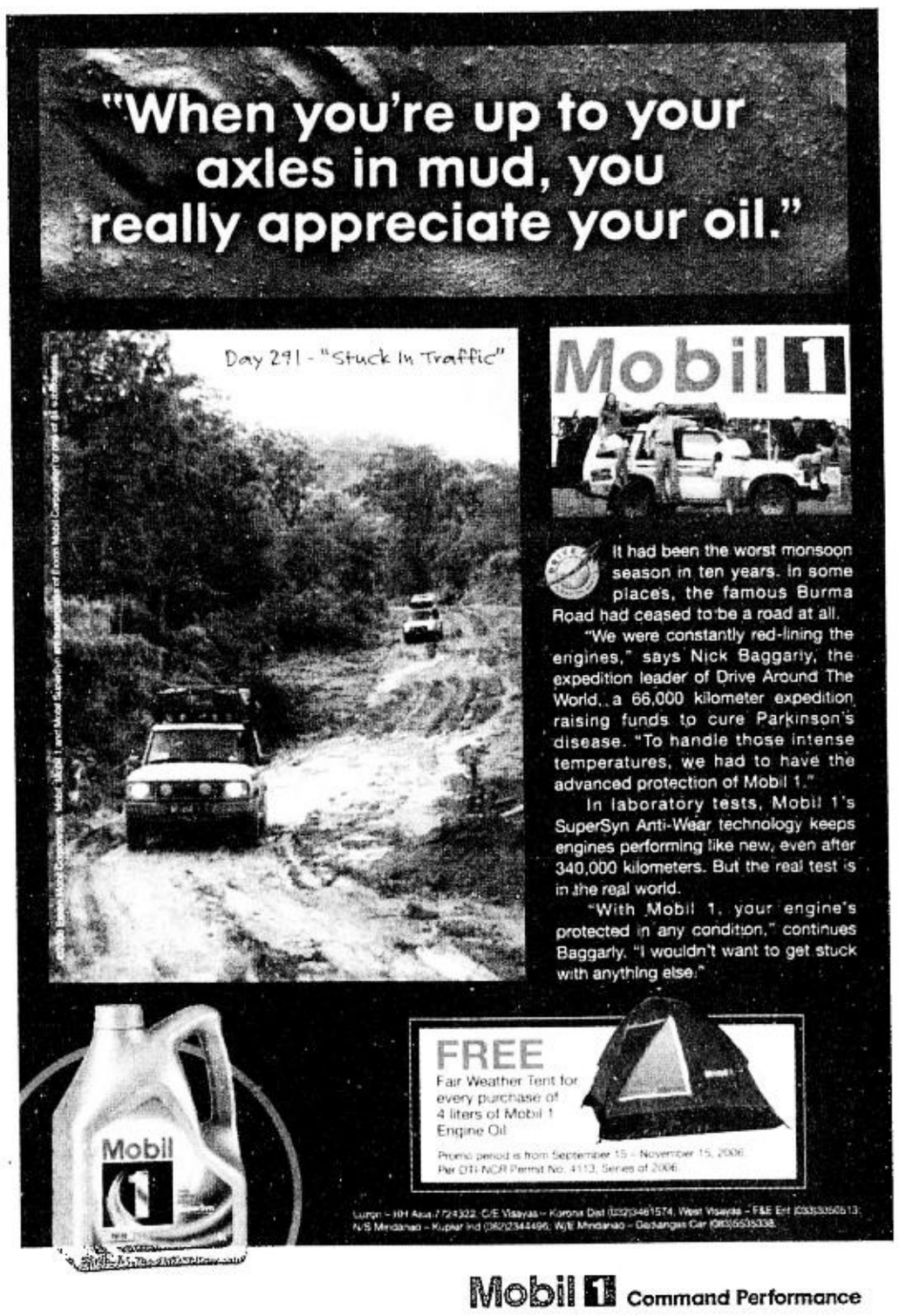
Quarters: 14-11, 38-29, 48-45, 69-61

Third Game (Srs)

UST 87-Ababou 22, Duncil 20, Cruz 10, Espiritu 10, Evangelista 10, Dizon 6, Canlas 5, Cuan 4, Taylor 0, Cortez 0.

ATENEO 71-Intal 23, Kramer 14, Tiu 12, Escalona 10, Reyes 4, Laterre 4, Arao 2, Salamat 1, Al-Hussaini 1, Uichico 0, Quimson 0, Barracoso 0.

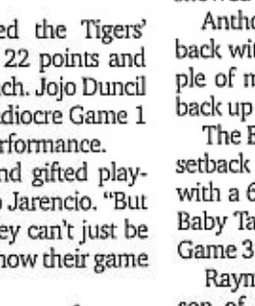
Quarters: 21-20, 48-38, 65-57, 87-71



Bono finally proves worth

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT TOOK ALL OF FOUR YEARS for Adamson's Ken Bono to show his real game. Not that the length of time it took to prove his worth matters. At least, he didn't run out of chances to prove his worth.



KEN Bono

The wide-bodied 6-foot-5 center tore through the season like someone eager to make up for all the missed opportunities in the UAAP.

"I improved this season because of the trust given to me," said Bono, who he was aptly rewarded for his efforts when he received the Most Valuable Player plum during the awarding ceremonies yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Bono impressively doubled his production this year. After averaging 11.7 markers and 6.6 rebounds last season, his numbers jumped to a league-best 22.4 points and 10.6 boards per game.

Even noteworthy, Bono powered the Falcons to their first Final Four appearance.

Although the Falcons bowed to the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the semifinals, Bono came up with a Herculean performance by delivering a season-best 33 points, nine rebounds and three blocks.

But the 22-year-old management student thinks that credit

BONO/ A26

PBA OPENER

Ginebra tests Welcoat worth today

By Musong R. Castillo

WELCOAT INSISTS THAT BEING IN THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL Association alone is already a big thing.

The pro league's newest member is enjoying every minute since crashing the elite cage roster, saying the publicity alone that the team has been getting is exactly what the Dragons came here for.

Today, Welcoat struts its stuff for the first time with the Dragons pitted against rock-solid Barangay Ginebra as the Philippine Cup opens at 6 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Colorful opening rites highlighted by the traditional parade of players and their muses at 4 o'clock will usher in the lone inaugural game.

While Welcoat has been talking with a lot of kindness, the field's kill-or-be-killed mentality definitely makes it certain that the Dragons will not be treated kindly by their foes led by the Gin Kings.

"What we can assure everyone is that we will come out for every game ready and believing that we can win," co-owner Raymund Yu told the INQUIRER.

SCHEDULE TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
6 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Welcoat

"We will be playing the most popular team in the land (in our first game), and whatever happens (after the game), that already says a lot."

On paper, Welcoat owns the most inferior roster, made up of three amateur standouts supported by a mix of discards from other teams and free agents who have had forgettable flings as pros before.

Ginebra, on the other hand, has the most fearsome lineup, made up of two all-star teams still hungry to win after a revamp that started from the very top in the off-season.

"We still have to jell," new Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said. "We may be a strong team, but we still lack the chemistry. And teams that win in this league... have chemistry."

The towering and beefy Ginebra frontline will be seen for the first time, and it would be interesting to see how Uichico shuffles his personnel in this position and still make the Kings' offensive machinery hum with precision.

Rudy Hatfield, the former prodigal son of Coca-Cola, returns after a long absence, giving Ginebra the scrappy type of a big man the Kings have never had before.

Eric Menk, Rommel Adducul, Rafi Reavis, Billy Mamaril, Mark Caguioa and the ever-reliable Johnny Abarrientos could prove to be too many stars to handle for such a young Welcoat side.

While acknowledging that his team does not have legitimate superstars, Yu believes that this could work to their advantage. His players, Yu said, have just been itching to play, unlike before when they were completely overlooked by their former teams.

The winner tonight joins idle Red Bull on top. The Bulls thumped the Alaska Aces, 99-93, in the tournament's kick-off game in Guam Thursday night.

Missing Guam and a lot more

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I WAS SUPPOSED TO be in Guam last Thursday for the Red Bull-Alaska match, the first regular PBA game of the 2006-2007 season played before the actual opening.

I was looking forward to a reunion with the Shimizu brothers and Nextel president Lambert Ramos, who used to promote the Guam games years ago when he was still based in that country and working for Budweiser, and a late night dinner with colleagues and friends hosted by Red Bull owner George Chua after the game, win or lose.

However, it wasn't meant to be.

When I arrived Wednesday night at the Centennial airport for the 10:20 p.m. PAL flight to Guam, I discovered to my dismay, that my old passport which contained my United States visa, had been detached from my new one.

Confident that I could have my old passport brought to the airport in time, I asked one of my co-passengers to check in my luggage for me.

And then I waited for my couriers outside. It was early. I had no doubt they would get there in time.

* * *

The trouble is, my passport couldn't be found. My home had just been renovated, I had moved to a new room and everything was topsy-turvy.

It took more than 30 minutes before my passport could be discovered under a pile of clothes, but not before my house got totally ransacked.

From Quezon City, my courier took the MRT to the Taft Station where the car that had dropped me off at the airport was waiting.

From Taft, the driver stepped on the gas and practically flew back to the airport, but all the effort, stress and time-cutting devices had been all for naught. It was 9:55 p.m. The counter was closed and despite my pleas to the ground crew, they could do nothing to help. The plane refused to let another passenger in.

* * *

Drat and double drat! "Why did you have to pick this flight to be on time," I told the ground crew.

"Guam flights are always on time," they chorused.

They suggested that I rebook for the next flight Friday.

I thanked them, explaining that the game is on Thursday and everyone will be on their way home at dawn of Saturday.

* * *

Dejected, I tried to console myself with the thought that missing the trip might have been a blessing in disguise. I reminded myself that everything happens for a cause although at that moment I couldn't figure out what it was.

My house was a total mess when I arrived. Obviously my son Raymond had turned it upside down and inside out in search of that old passport.

The wind was howling, a strong typhoon was brewing. In a few hours, Metro Manila would be blanketed in complete darkness.

To add to my woes, both my landline went dead and all the cellphones at home but one were going low batt. My charger for these phones were inside my luggage on the way to Guam. The charged mobile didn't have a signal. I was practically incommunicado.

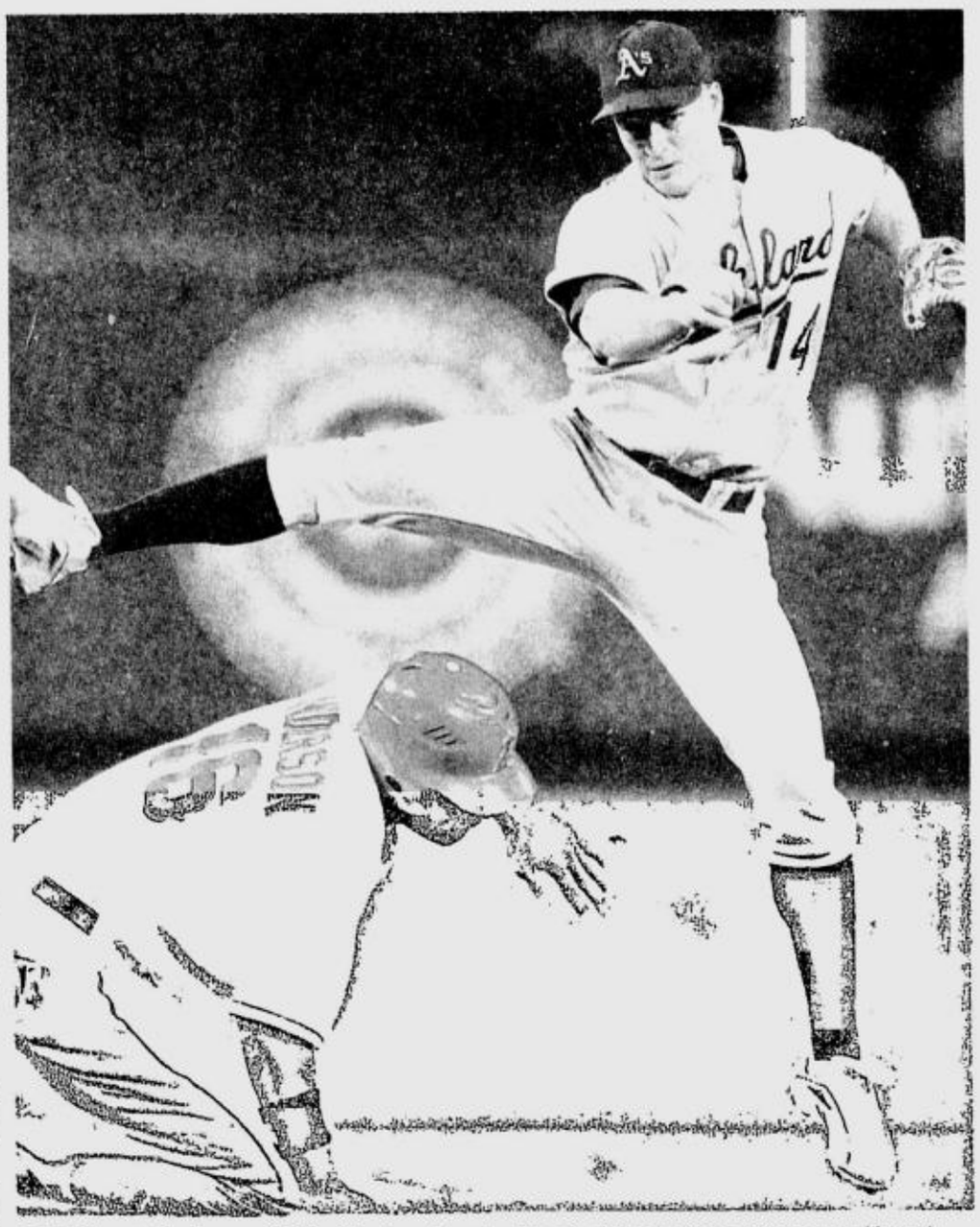
Before my cellphone got totally dead, I managed to touch base with PBA chairman Ricky Vargas to ask for an update on the SBP which was expected to get the nod of the POC and ultimately, the FIBA.

Ricky said MVP was in Hong Kong. He too, was still awaiting word. The world was at a standstill.

I figured there was still the UAAP championship to look forward to. But then I remembered that I had pledged my tickets—rare as diamonds—to a dear friend, thinking that I wouldn't be in Manila for Game 2.

As I write this, my traveling companions (supposedly) had already returned from Guam with tales of fun and shopping, all my phone lines—land and mobile—were still dead and our subdivision still didn't have electricity.

After four days, I still couldn't figure out why I had missed my plane. For sure it wasn't a blessing. It was a punishment, more than anything.



OUT: Garrett Anderson (left) of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim is out at second base in the second inning against Mark Ellis of the Oakland Athletics on Friday.

Membership issues hound fragile SBP

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE IS STILL NO DATE YET FOR its first national congress. The list of members is taking so long to get verified and validated. And its Sept. 30 self-imposed deadline just lapsed.

Signs that the young and fragile Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas is not out of the woods yet.

A day after it vowed to complete the requirements needed for its reinstatement by the Fiba (international basketball federation), there is still no specific date yet for the holding of the national congress and elections.

Instead, the three-man panel composed of the leaders of the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Pilipinas Basketball and telecommunications tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan agreed to have a "transitory period" effective yesterday until April 2008.

This, according to SBP, will give them enough time to sort out sticky membership issues of the two rival associations.

Sources said the bone of contention is the uneven number of clubs affiliated between the established BAP and the fledgling PB.

PB reportedly has 21 member clubs, while BAP has 61, which is already being questioned by no less than the Philippine Olympic Committee, which has yet to accept the SBP into its fold.

A ranking POC official said they wanted to make sure the BAP roster of candidate members have complied with the three major items in the SBP constitution—at least two years of existence, they must conduct tournaments at least three months in a year and must have at least six member teams.

The same official said that if the BAP indeed has 61 member clubs, there should have been a big number of tournaments or leagues around the country.

Meanwhile, panel has decided that the board of trustees composed of Pangilinan and the 24 board members run the affairs of basketball in the meantime.

Since the members of each factions "will take some time to be verified and validated," a transitory period must be in effect, according to PB president Bernie Atienza.

Shadow group out to undermine gains—Atienza

By Francis Ochoa

SUDDENLY, CRACKS ARE STARting to show in the unified group that's hoping to be the country's national federation for basketball.

Two officials of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) yesterday broached the idea of a shadow group out to undermine the strides made to unify the country's fractured basketball landscape by trying to ease out the federation's president and chair Manny V. Pangilinan.

"Some people want Mr. Manny Pangilinan to back out and this would leave us all in the dark again," said Pilipinas Basketball (PB) president Bernie Atienza. "We are going to be back to square one if Mr. Pangilinan decides to back out."

"They're just trying to muddle the issue when in fact we have all agreed that there is already an interim set of officers plus Mr. Pangilinan," PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad also said.

Pangilinan, the Smart and PLDT CEO agreed to accept the twin posts despite having earlier declined it, naming as one of his conditions the full support of the entire board that consists of 12 members from the PB and 12 from the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

Trinidad said the three-man panel made up of BAP president Joey Lina, Atienza and Pangilinan had forged an agreement about this setup.

"The SBP already has a set of officers voted by acclamation and I don't see any reason why these people won't work together," said Trinidad. "I am no longer surprised that basketball in our country just could not get off the ground."

The three-man panel was created when officials of the POC, PB and BAP met in the presence of Fiba officials during the world championships in Tokyo last August.

The panel had earlier imposed a deadline of Sept. 30 for the SBP to finalize everything so it could apply for recognition with the POC and the Fiba.

Despite failing to beat the deadline, Atienza is still upbeat that they're on the right track.

ATIENZA

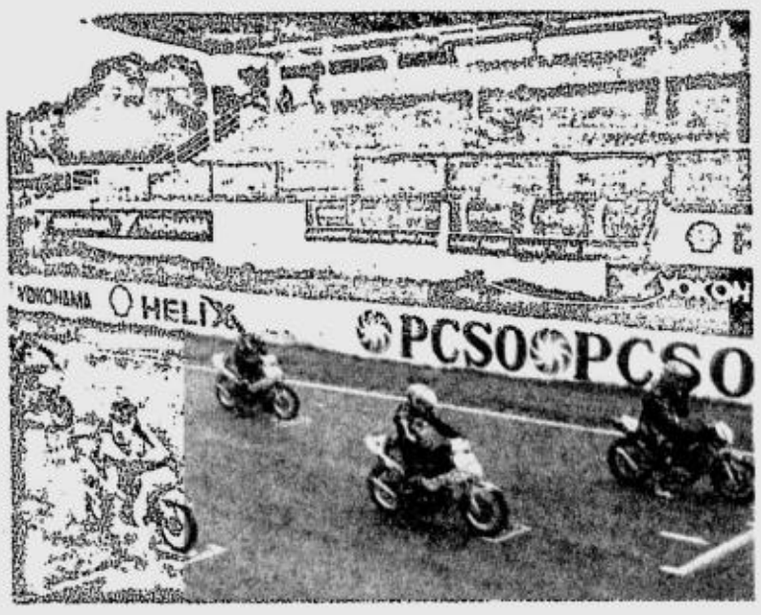
Fearless Fighting qualifying Oct. 7

PUT IN FEARLESS FIGHTERS BRANDISHING their fiercest fighting techniques and what have you got—spectacular action.

This is what's in store for the fans on Saturday, Oct. 7 when the third qualifying stage of the Fearless Fighting Championship takes center stage at the Metrowalk in Pasig.

Twenty-six martial arts proponents and masters of their own craft slug it out in 13 featured matches inside an octagon-shaped arena for the right to continue the Quest—the Road to the Championship, which will culminate in a final battle in December.

The elite list of fighters and martial artists that will see action in the one-day event include featherweight Celso "Yogi" Gunda of Fight Club, owner of a 1-1 card in the octagon. Gunda will go up against Karlo Kagahastian of SPRAWL.



SPEED DEMONS: More than 35 riders representing manufacturer teams from Yamaha, Suzuki, Honda and Shinski spiced up the kickoff of the 2006 Philippine Underbone King Championship Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

Pumar loses WBC crown in S. Africa

FILIPINO GABRIEL PUMAR LOST HIS World Boxing Council (WBC) International minimumweight title after he was stopped yesterday by South African Zukisani Kwayiba at the Nasrec Indoor Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The bout was stopped after the ninth round after the ringside physician ordered a halt to the fight due to the profuse bleeding on Pumar's left eyelid, which was earlier caused by a clash of heads in the third round.

Curiously, South African referee Thabo Spampool ruled the accidental head butt as a legitimate punch, and as the fight wore on, the cut kept getting bigger as Kwayiba kept landing big rights on the bleeding left optic.

In a match-up of southpaws, Kwayiba started by firing from all angles at the defending champ. Pumar, however, retaliated with shots of his own and bloodied Kwayiba's nose.

"In the eighth round, there was another clash of heads, ruled as an accidental headbutt by the referee, which opened up the cut further," reported Superboxing.co.za in a story carried by Philboxing.com. "The ringside doctors took a long look at the cut and held a lengthy consultation after Spampool had also called Pumar's chief second into the ring—a contravention of the rules—before the fight was allowed to continue."

It was Pumar's first loss in 11 bouts, while Kwayiba kept his unbeaten streak in 10 fights.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

Camel Supercross takes spotlight

THE SIMMERING RIVALRY BETWEEN Glenn Aguilar of the Philippines and James Robinson of New Zealand will serve as one of the highlights in the 2006 Camel Supercross International Championship Series, which hits the road anew today (Oct. 1) in Talisay City, Negros Occidental.

Venue of the race is the Talisay Stadium.

Talisay City Mayor Eric Saratan is expected to personally lead local officials during the whole-day event being held in this bustling Negros Occidental city for the second time this year.

Aguilar and Robinson hugged the limelight when the Camel-sponsored championship race was first held in Talisay City on Feb. 19, as the two supercross champions split top honors in the pro125 and pro open categories, respectively.

The entry of another foreign rider—Frank Rios of Guam—is also expected to make the race for top honors in this island-hopping series a lot tighter than the previous ones held in the Visayas.

"We expect another battle royale this weekend. Most of the riders, including Glenn and James, are raring to strut their wares anew," said National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) managing director Macky Carapiet.

For details on the Camel Supercross, visit www.namssa.org or call Arthur Valdez at cell 0917-8479785.

PBA

TALK 'N TEXT

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PBA

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Bono finally . . .

From page A23

should also be given to Adamson coach Leo Austria. "There was a big difference in our training," said Bono, a native of Iloilo. "Coach Leo told me to give everything, to be the leader of the team."

Ateneo main man JC Intal also made a strong bid for the MVP award after norming 17.9 points, 7.4 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game.

Jervy Cruz, running third in the MVP race, could have easily clinched the Rookie of the Year award after a sensational first year with UST.

However, only rookies fresh from high school are eligible for the award. Cruz, the league's rebound leader with averages of 16.3 points and 12.8 boards, sat out in Team B last year due to academic deficiencies.

Woody Co bagged the top rookie plum after posting 9.3 points and 4.5 rebounds per game for the UP Maroons. Bono, Intal and Cruz were also named in the Mythical Five along with Marvin Cruz of UP and Jeff Chan of the FEU Tamaraws.

ON TARGET: John Duddy scores with the left against Yori Boy Campas during their 12-round vacant IBA world middleweight title fight at the Madison Square Garden Friday. Duddy won by unanimous decision. AP

Volleyball . . .

From page A23

hang Basketbol ng Pilipinas which recently installed tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan as its chair and president, Banzuela said PVF should be run by 15 administrators who can source money to bankroll PVFs plans and programs.

"Running an association is primarily about money, because how can you implement programs without money," Banzuela told the INQUIRER through the phone from his Bacolod office.

"We are in a difficult situation right now because the people running PVF are technical people who don't only implement programs but also look for funds. We have to be practical, like what basketball did," he added.

He will make the proposal on Nov. 17 when the PVF general membership convenes at the La Salle Greenhills with all affiliated clubs nationwide expected to attend.

The board of directors/administrators, Banzuela proposed, should be made up of nine representatives from Luzon, three from Visayas and three from Mindanao.

The board then chooses its officers, including the president.

Sta. Lucia Tour begins Oct. 4

THE FIELD HAS TO BE LIMITED TO 240 players even if many more wanted to join. That's how hot is the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour which kicks off this weekend at the Rancho Palos Verdes in Davao for the Mindanao leg.

Certainly, it's not only the four plane rides, the weekend stays in first class hotels or the seven rounds in five of country's best courses which have attracted these members of the Sta. Lucia Realty family.

For the participants, it's the perfect excuse for a golf holiday with all the thrills and frills of a well-balanced and well-managed competition.

"We believe that we've been able to create a series of tournaments for bonding and camaraderie," said Tour executive committee co-chairman Vicente Santos, also the EVP of Sta. Lucia Realty and Dev't Corp.

The tour goes to Cebu for the Visayas leg which will be hosted by Alta Vista on Nov. 2-5 and to Manila for the Luzon stop at Sta. Lucia's top three courses—Summit Point, Orchard and Eagle Ridge—on Dec. 7-10.

"The success of the Tour through the years is all because of the support given by all the golf clubs in the Sta. Lucia family," said engineer Wini Gob, co-chair of the Tour executive committee. "We are bound to grow bigger in the coming years and we'll definitely find ways to accommodate more."

These are Alta Vista (Cebu), Caliraya Springs (Laguna), Eagle Ridge (Cavite), Lakewood (Cabanatuan), Orchard (Cavite), Rancho Palos Verdes (Davao), Royale Tagaytay and Summit Point (Batangas).

Hole sponsors are Unirock, Readycon and Pisanti Golf, The Marco Polo of Davao, Marriott Cebu and The Bellevue Manila are the official hotels, Samsung, Titleist and Footjoy are hole-in-one sponsors and PAL the official airline.

Pinoy keglers aim to bowl over rivals

By Roy Luarca

A STAR-STUDDED ROSTER ON A hot streak.

The Philippine bowling squad looks ready to roll over the opposition in the coming Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

With the likes of Biboy Rivera, CJ Suarez and, of course, the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno at the helm, the men's team already looks formidable.

Throw in Markwin Tee, Chester King and Tyrone Ongpauco and you've got a squad that should contend for the gold medals in the quadrennial meet slated Dec. 1-15.

No wonder, Team Philippines assistant coach Sharwin Tee feels the Filipino keglers are as prepared as they can be.

"We have the momentum right now," said Tee in yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan in Padre Faura, Manila. "Judging on the recent developments, I think we have a good chance of winning."

Tee, brother of the 22-year-old Markwin, is referring to the victory of Rivera in the recent World Men's Bowling Championship and the four gold medals the Filipinos bagged in last year's Southeast Asian Games.

Also given weight was CJ Suarez's triumph in the World Cup and the golden feat of the threesome of Liza del Rosario, Liza Clutario and Ces Yap in the 15th World Bowling Championship in 2003.

All of these players will be back for the team plus seasoned campaigners Jojo Canare, Irene Garcia-Benitez and Apple Posadas in the distaff side.

Having four-time World Cup champion Nepomuceno on call will definitely boost the Filipinos' stock and pose concern for the other favored teams like the Malaysians and the South Koreans.

Except for Nepomuceno, the five members of the men's team were present in yesterday's weekly session.

Tee hinted of improving the country's campaign in the 2002 Busan Asiad, where Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista won the men's double gold.

BIBOY Rivera

"Perhaps, it's just as strong or possibly, even stronger than our team then," said Tee, who expects stiff competition to come from Malaysia and Korea.

"Malaysia was our biggest rival in the last SEA Games and has always been a bowling powerhouse while Korea had a good run in the last world championship," noted Tee.

While Nepoucemo will still command attention, Tee points to Rivera as the bowler to watch.

"Biboy had proven himself by winning the world masters championship," said Tee. "Nobody can question that. And everybody in the world respects him now. But Then again, you're only good as your last shot."

The Filipinos are determined to make that a strike.

RP karatekas seeking first Asiad gold

FILIPINO KARATEKAS WILL BE AIMING FOR their first gold medal ever in the coming Asian Games.

And the Philippine Karatedo Federation is making sure that they will be fully equipped to achieve this goal.

The PKF will send the eight-man national karate team to Italy this weekend to embark on a rigid two-month training for the Doha Asiad in Qatar this December.

From Naples, Italy, the karatekas will proceed to Finland to compete in the World Karate Federation (WKF) World Championships on Oct. 13-15.

After the world tilt, the team returns to Italy and resume its training. Then in November, the karatekas compete in the Italian Open, their last major tournament before heading for Doha.

Manila Southeast Asian Games gold medalists Gretchen Malalad, Marna Pabillore and Nelson Pacalso spearhead Team Philippines. They will be joined by Bern Chu, Bong Toribio, Mae Soriano, Junel Perenia and Noel Espinosa.

Except for Espinosa, the country's lone campaigner in the kata (forms) event, the rest are seeing action in the kumite (combat) event.

SPORTSWATCH

Codinera active chess today

THE CODIÑERA 1900 BELOW ACTIVE CHESS SECTION GETS UNDERWAY AT 11 a.m. today at the lower second floor of St. Francis Square behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Open to amateurs, unrated and rated players whose active ratings are about 1900, the tournament will employ the six round Swiss and time control of 25 minutes per player. Up for grabs is a total pot of P10,000 with the champion pocketing the top purse of P3,000. Registration fee is P250. Players must register at least before the start of the game or call MCC at 826-8560 or 0916-6608-712 and 0916-852-1069.

Cyberfriends derby: P500,000 at stake

THE ANNUAL CYBERFRIENDS 5- STAG DERBY, A FRIENDLY SHOWDOWN OF cockers from all over the country and abroad, happens at San Juan Coliseum on Oct. 2 and 4, with P500,000 up for grabs. Backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the event has attracted cockers from Davao, Cebu, Ilo- ilo, Negros Occidental, Palawan and Mindoro as well as cockfight enthusiasts from Singapore, Japan, USA and United Kingdom. Cyberfriends is a group of dedicated cockers who aims to elevate the sport into a higher level, said it's president Raul Ebeo. Part of derby proceeds will be donated to a charitable institution. Members must submit entries today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at SJC. For info, call 725 -5369 and 725 -6563.

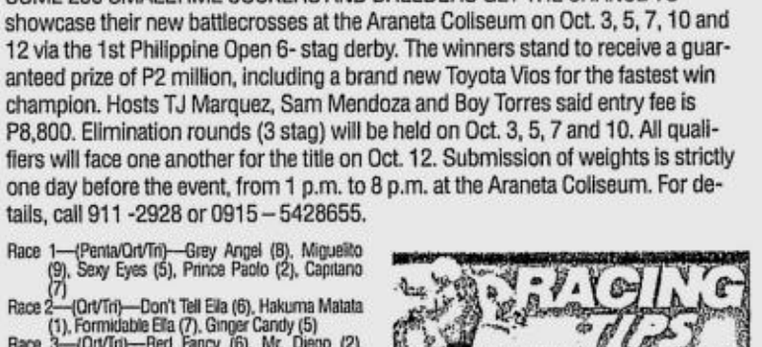
Araneta 6- stag derby lures 250 bets

SOME 250 SMALLTIME COCKERS AND BREEDERS GET THE CHANCE TO showcase their new battlecrosses at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 3, 5, 7, 10 and 12 via the 1st Philippine Open 6- stag derby. The winners stand to receive a guaranteed prize of P2 million, including a brand new Toyota Vios for the fastest win champion. Hosts TJ Marquez, Sam Mendoza and Boy Torres said entry fee is P8,800. Elimination rounds (3 stag) will be held on Oct. 3, 5, 7 and 10. All qualifiers will face one another for the title on Oct. 12. Submission of weights is strictly one day before the event, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. For details, call 911 -2928 or 0915 – 5428655.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Grey Angel (8), Miguelito (9), Sexy Eyes (5), Prince Paolo (2), Capitano (7)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Don't Tell Ella (6), Hakuma Matata (1), Formidable Ella (7), Ginger Candy (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Fancy (6), Mr. Diego (2), Summer Rain (3), Merlot (4)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Wild Orchid (5), Luxardo (10), Deputy Stravinsky (3), Dalcross (4), Dancing Folly (6)
Race 5—(Tri)—Hear Me (4), Good Landing/Earl Gray (5), Honour Dance/Iron Heart (2)
Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Lucky Strike (8), Hard Way (3), Ravishing Raffy (2), King Alpiun (4), Men Of Honor (7), Coat Of Arms (11)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sambat (6), GI Speedball (3), Lucky Punch (1), Looney Tune (4), Manila Magic (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Morning Nell (3), Madel line (1), Sandok (11), Golden Issue (12), Summit Force (10), Red Anya (2)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Lady Commander (3), El Cubano Coskee (4), Ruah (7), District Three (2)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Shifty (11), Magic Dancer (4), Jokes Only (12), Awesome Power (3), Daddy's Girl (6), Prickly Heat (14)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Brown Bomber/Condoleeza (3), Magic Cue (5), ES Twenty Six (6), Kai Marki (4)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Music Quest (8), Mandalay Bay (9), Express Strike (2), Habagat (3), Heart Of The Wind (9)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Macho Man (14), Hard To Find (12), Rebecca's Magic (5), Iron Tower (11), Xtreme Heat (3), Ayan Na Ko (13)



CHESS WINNER: Mary Israel Palero (3rd from left) emerged as the top female awardee in the 14th Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Mindanao leg recently. Shown with her are, from left, Victorio Sai, Pilipinas Shell's Ricky Altonaga, Palero's father, Davao councilor Peter Lavina and Pilipinas Shell's Ronald Reyes.

Valencia nips Tribu

VALENCIA CITY—NAT CRUZ clustered four free throws in the last 17 seconds to lift Valencia Golden Harvest past returning Arthro/Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu, 82-80, Friday night in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup at the city gym here.

The Cebuanos of businessmen Jonathan Guardo and Lito Gillamac Jr. inched ahead 80-78 on Mark Ababon's three charities. But Tribu turned the ball over twice in the last 17 ticks, enabling Cruz to score the winning free throws.

It was the first win in three games for Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Golden Harvest

After Marvin Mercado was called for traveling, he quickly fouled Eliazar Berami. But had to take the charities when Berami was injured.

Ababon then stepped on the line, enabling Cruz to ice the contest by splitting his two free throws.

Charlie Braga led Golden Harvest with 17 points.

Ababon, JR Quinahan and Ronald Bucao combined for 28 points as Tribu wiped out a 38-44 halftime deficit and surged ahead 70-66 going into the playoff period.

But the Cebuanos were held to 10 points in the last quarter to absorb their second straight setback in the tourney sponsored by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

The loss spoiled Quinahan's 16-point, 10-rebound, four-block performance and Ababon's 23-point eruption in 24 minutes.

Tribu was trying to break into the win column against Gov. Manny Pinol's North Cotabato Braves while Bacchus/Harbour Centre-San Juan are squaring off with Cellular pawnshop at presstime last night.

THAILAND OPEN: Russia's Marat Safin smashes a return to James Blake of the US during their semifinal match at the Thailand Open in Bangkok. Blake won, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3). REUTERS

Wearing a grimace better than smarting from national shame

COMMENTARY

Percy D. Della

CANDON CITY, ILOCOS SUR—LOOKS LIKE we'll send no basketball team to the Doha Asian Games in December.

Multitudes will say oh no!. I will say oh yes!

Basketball fanatics will spend the Holidays wearing a grimace.

I will spend the Yuletide with a wide smile.

A national basketball coach who can sell ice to the Eskimos will bemoan the loss of opportunity for the ill-fated Philippine team.

He'll say that in sports there is this eternal feeling that everyone has a chance.

I will say baloney.

In a sport where we were once an Asian superpower, we are now a Third World country.

Ask Chinese megastar Yao Ming till your voice gets hoarse.

The NBA center and the Asiad's other cage behemoths have a job to do. Make sure we remain second class citizens of the sport in the region for a very long spell.

The game's other world stages are none the worse. Parity has set in that even the United States is no longer the undisputed king of the hoops.

It's best that we forget about firing our kids' imagination with thoughts of impossible basketball glory.

We should reduce the alphabet soup of basketball leagues around us.

There is a need to develop a sports calendar that does not revolve around basketball for a change.

Wearing a grimace is heck a lot better than wearing national shame.

Speaking of basketball, I take my hat off to the guy everyone in sports media calls the MVP.

He knows the value of public relations. At least his drumbeaters do.

MVP was recently presented with a PR offer he could not refuse. Look, everyone in sports thinks you can turn fool's gold into sterling silver.

Heck, your followers even think you can part the Red Sea, for crying out loud.

So listen to popular clamor. Lead a cordial caucus to heal basketball's frayed social network. No need to bring anything on the table. Just your business and leadership skills.

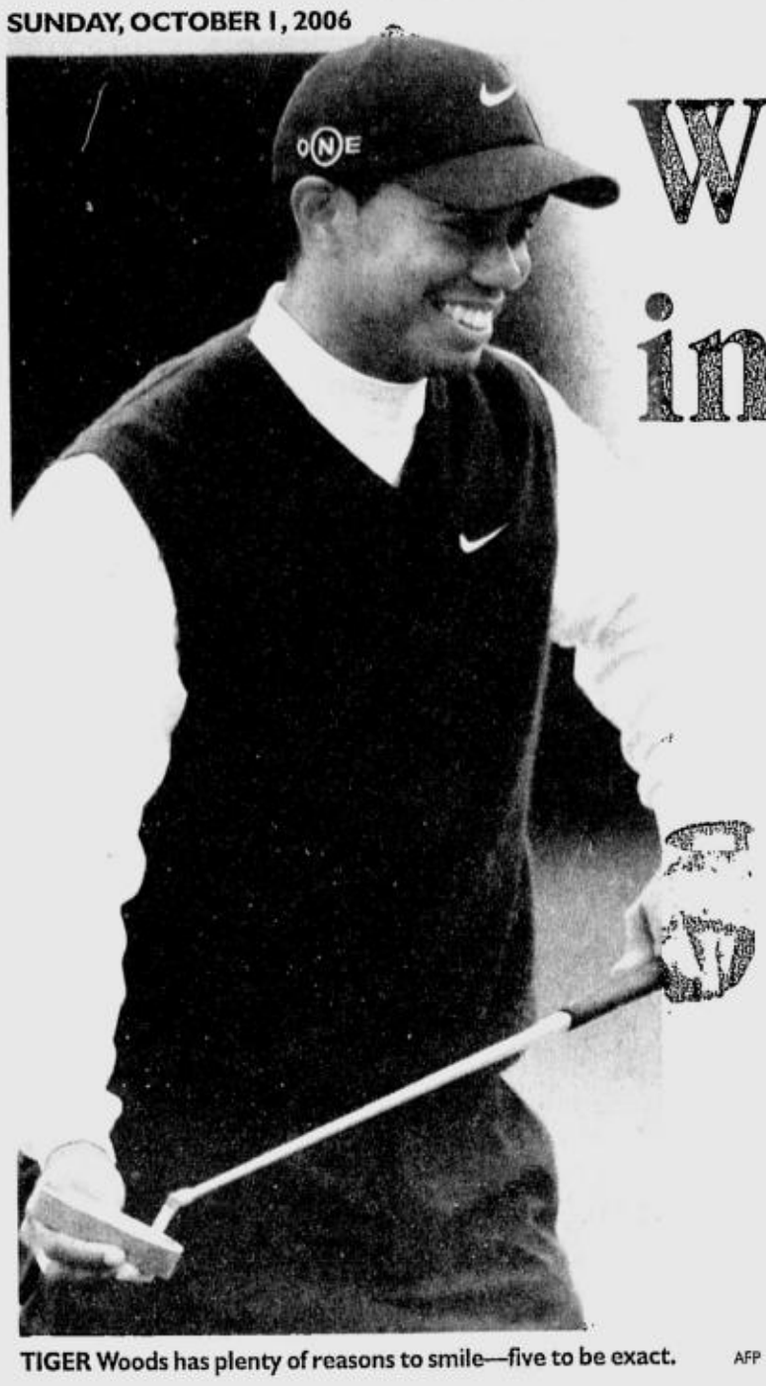
Get the warring cage camps together. Reduce the harshness of their political and ideological dispute to nothing.

At first, the factions said no. But under a generous glare of media, MVP said yes.

It was difficult but not impossible to work out the compromises needed to get things done.

In the end, a single basketball body was formed, with the MVP at the helm, but not in time to our sheer delight to form a team for Doha.

Score one anyway for the MVP's small army of PR hands.


TIGER Woods has plenty of reasons to smile—five to be exact. AFP

Woods off to best start in six years, leads by 5

CHANDLER'S CROSS, ENGLAND—TIGER Woods made another eagle on the 18th hole Friday in the American Express Championship, only this one didn't finish off a great round.

It pumped life into what had been a dull one.

Woods, who started on the 10th hole on Friday, went on to birdie four of his next six holes on his way to a 7-under 64 and his best 36-hole start in six years.

He was at 15-under 127 and had a five-shot lead over Ryder Cup partner Jim Furyk (65), who was among those who finished their second round in increasing showers at The Grove.

Furyk, who played his last five holes in 1 over, was joined by Stewart Cink (67) and David Howell (66) at 10-under 132.

Padraig Harrington had a 69 and was another shot back.

"We're only at the halfway point," Woods said. "The (winning) score is not going to be 15, so you've got to continue making birdies."

It was Woods' lowest over the first two days since he shot 64-61 at Firestone in 2000 to build a seven-shot lead at the NEC Invitational. In the midst of his best year in golf, Woods went on to win that tournament by 11 shots.

He is getting closer to the 2000 standard with each round.

Woods already has won seven times this year on the PGA Tour, including two majors (Masters and British Open) and one World Golf Championship at Firestone last month.

His 36-hole record on the PGA Tour (26-6) is not nearly as daunting as having the lead going into the final round, although the way he is playing on a course that suits him doesn't leave the 60-man field optimistic.

Tim Herron was on the practice green after his round when someone asked him how he did.

"Couple under, so that's like 1 under for the tournament," Herron said. "What does that leave me, 14 shots behind Tiger?"

And it's been a while since Vijay Singh was 21 shots behind Woods after two rounds. The Fijian, who has struggled most of the year, has opened with rounds of 73-75.

Ernie Els, who lives about 30 minutes away and played The Grove twice last week to get familiar with it, made eagle on the second hole to get within one shot of the lead early in his round, but he stalled after that. Els had to make birdie on the final hole for a 70, leaving him eight shots behind.

Woods opened with a 12-foot birdie, then plodded along under mostly gray skies north of London, rarely giving himself good looks at birdie and having to struggle at times for par.

That changed on what is becoming his favorite hole, the 567-yard 18th.

On Thursday, he ripped a 3-wood into the breeze to within 20 feet for eagle that gave him a 63 and a one-shot lead. It was his ninth hole of the second round, and the result was event better. From only 246 yards this time, his approached landed as softly as a 6-iron, some 10 feet behind the flag for another eagle.

"That basically got things started," Woods said.

Woods was trailing Furyk by one shot when he stood in the 18th fairway, and his eagle gave him a one-shot lead. Then he took off, reaching the par-5 second in two shots for a routine birdie, then reeling off three straight birdies starting with a 35-footer at the fourth.

The rain became heavy as he finished his last two holes, making the course only softer and longer.

Furyk was 7 under for his round through 13 holes when he stopped making birdies, and a tee shot into the rough on the sixth hole left no chance to reach the green. He missed a 12-foot par putt.

"I wish I would have finished it off a little better," Furyk said.

Cink reached 11 under with a birdie at No. 6, but he missed the eighth fairway to the right and couldn't reach the green. Cink missed his 12-foot par putt there, and a 12-footer for birdie on the ninth that would have put him in the final group with Woods.

"I've got a lot of momentum after last week, even though we didn't win," Cink said. *AP*

'Milenyo' damages top golf courses

By Jong Arcano

METRO MANILA'S GOLF COURSES BORE THE brunt of Typhoon Milenyo's fury on Thursday and their main defense—the trees both young and mature—proved no match to the super howler.

Hundreds of trees were either uprooted or felled by the strong winds with most of the golf courses reporting considerable damage to their plants.

Hit hardest was Manila Southwoods which lost about 1,500 trees, part of the roof of its main clubhouse blown off and hole No. 4 of its Masters course now needing major repair due to flooding.

Its workforce was able to clear the debris in time for members and guests to play yesterday but they had to make do with a composite Masters course as No. 4 was declared unplayable.

Orchard, meanwhile, lost 450 trees, 281 of them mango trees at the Player and Palmer courses.

Orchard general manager Rene Garovillo told the INQUIRER that they need to close both courses yesterday and probably until today to pave the way for debris-clearing operations.

Sta. Elena also took quite a beating as it lost 50 percent of its trees on the course and 80 percent of the trees on the fairways.

Sta. Elena had to close its three nines for the weekend for its maintenance crew to remove the fallen debris and allow course supervisors to make a thorough inspection of the course for other damages.

One hole of Mt. Malarayat's Makulot course, meanwhile, was partially washed out on top of a lot of fallen trees which forced the postponement of their members tournament scheduled yesterday for Oct. 28.

Valley, Eagle Ridge and Forest Hills reported getting away with minimal damage and it was business as usual in their respective turfs yesterday.

Alonso takes Chinese Grand Prix pole

SHANGHAI, CHINA—SEASON LEADER and defending champion Fernando Alonso took pole position Saturday for the Chinese Grand Prix in wet conditions, while arch rival Michael Schumacher qualified sixth.

Alonso led qualifying with a time of 1 minute, 44.360 seconds at the 5.451-kilometer (3.387-mile) Shanghai International Circuit, almost 10 seconds slower than Friday's time in dry conditions.

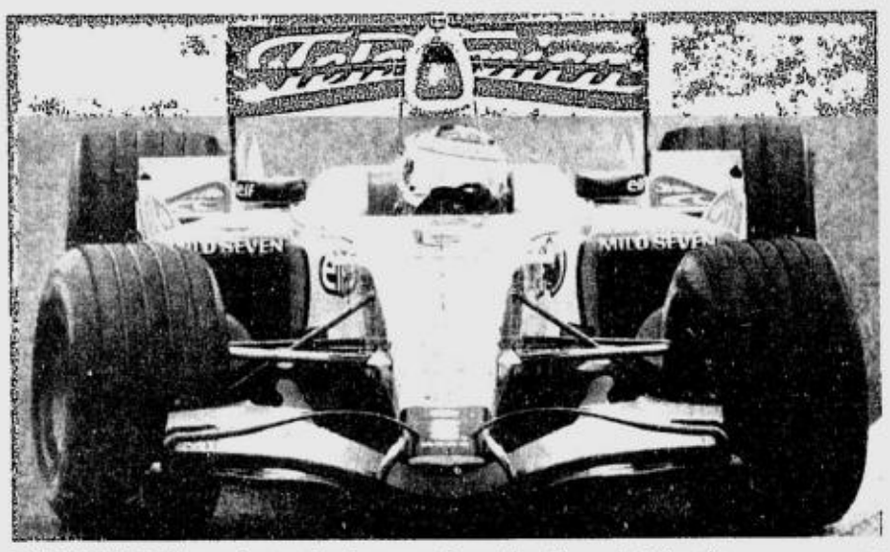
Alonso's Renault teammate Giancarlo Fisichella was second with 1:44.992.

The varying conditions didn't bother Alonso or Fisichella as the Renaults dominated qualifying, finishing 1-2 in all three sections.

"We are very optimistic. We are very confident we are quick in the dry and the wet," Alonso said.

It was the sixth pole for Alonso this season, but his first since June when he won his last race at the Canadian Grand Prix. He has 15 career poles.

"It was OK from the beginning. First in Q-1, Q-2, Q-3. There is nothing to say about the car. The performance of the team has been fantastic today," said Alonso, who won here last year from pole position.


FERNANDO Alonso fastest during practice at the Shanghai circuit. AFP

"In these weather conditions we were really, really comfortable this time, so we took advantage," he said. "Of course we have to finish the job tomorrow."

Honda's Rubens Barrichello, who won the inaugural Chinese GP in 2004, was third with 1:45.503. Ferrari's Schumacher was sixth in 1:45.775, just behind McLaren driver Kimmi Raikkonen at 1:45.754.

Rain threatened throughout the morning, then fell harder just as qualifying began. More rain is forecast for Sunday's 56-lap race.

Schumacher had his troubles in the first two sessions, coming in 13th and ninth while Alonso led both.

Felipe Massa, Schumacher's teammate, was just 14th and will start at the back of the grid Sunday because of a 10-place penalty due to an engine change on Friday.

Alonso holds a 108-106 point lead over seven-time champion Schumacher, and is looking to halt any further erosion of his lead entering the last three races.

"We know it is tight and it would be difficult to decide until the last race," Alonso said.

Six races ago, Alonso led by 25 points after winning six of the first nine races of the season. Since then, he hasn't won a race while Schumacher has won four.

Schumacher then announced his retirement following his victory at the Italian GP earlier this month.

Still, the German has repeatedly met with trouble at the state-of-the-art Shanghai track. He came in 12th in 2004 and finished dead last in 2005 amid spins, freak crashes and tire blowouts. *AP*

Tigers, Twins pace AL Central despite losses

DETROIT—EMIL BROWN AND PAUL Phillips led off the 11th inning with homers and Jeff Keppinger followed with a two-run shot to lift Kansas City to a 9-7 victory over Detroit on Friday night, the Royals' second win in 16 games with the Tigers.

Detroit remained tied with Minnesota, which lost 4-3 to Chicago, atop the AL Central with two games left, but the Tigers have the tiebreaker because they won the season series 11-8.

The Tigers, who led 5-0, scored two runs in the bottom of the 11th, but Ivan Rodriguez grounded into a double play to end the game.

Curtis Granderson led off the game with a homer and hit another one in the third to spark a four-run inning to help the Tigers take a 5-0 lead.

Kansas City scored two in the fifth and added a run in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings to make it 5-all.

Rodriguez also hit into a double play to end the ninth against Zack Greinke (1-0). With the bases loaded, Rodriguez hit a short fly to center and Joey Gathright easily threw out pinch-runner Brent Clevlen at home.

Jamie Walker (0-1) pitched a perfect 10th, then fell apart in the 11th. In Minneapolis, Freddy Garcia pitched 7 1-3 strong innings and Jermaine Dye and Alex Cintron homered in a 4-3 victory by the Chicago White Sox, the defending World Series champions who had lost nine of their previous 13 games to fall out of contention.

Garcia (17-9) allowed one run and five hits and Bobby Jenks pitched the ninth for his 41st save in 45 chances.

Michael Cuddyer hit a two-run double in the ninth off Jenks to cut it to 4-3. The Twins loaded the bases with two outs but Jenks struck out Phil Nevin to end the game.

Boof Bonser (7-6) allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings.

Dye hit his 44th homer in the first, while Cintron's fifth homer in the fifth was his first since Aug. 16, a span of 26 games. *AP*

Legal showdown brews over Manny contract

MANNY PACQUIAO'S SEVEN-FIGHT contract that was signed last week with Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions may not last very long, thanks to a clause in Pacquiao's contract for the fight with Erik Morales on Nov. 18 in Las Vegas.

That fight is being promoted by Bob Arum of Top Rank Inc., who said Wednesday that a paragraph in the contract for that fight specifically prohibits Pacquiao from signing a promotional contract with anyone until after the fight with Morales.

Arum said that if Pacquiao and Golden Boy do not take steps to void the contract, he could resort to legal action.

"It is clear that he (Pacquiao) was prohibited from signing with Golden Boy or any other promoter at least until after the Morales fight takes place," Arum said via telephone.

Arum said he puts this type of stipulation into most of his contracts.

"When we sign somebody to a major promotional fight and we're paying them millions and millions of dollars, we don't want them signing a deal with another promoter," Arum said. "We want the opportunity during the promotion to see if we can reach an arrangement with the kid, with his management team, and if we can't, then he is free to go."

Pacquiao, who was formerly promoted by Gary Shaw, was a free agent when he signed with Golden Boy. But Arum said that is immaterial because it is clear Pacquiao violated the contract he signed with Top Rank to fight Morales.

Arum said representatives for Pacquiao knew exactly what was in that contract.

"It wasn't like this was a clause they were unaware of," Arum said. "They went over the contract of the fight with a fine-tooth comb."

Arum said it is his understanding that Pacquiao may be having second thoughts about his contract with Golden Boy.

"If he was prohibited from signing the contract, he may feel that he may have to go to Golden Boy, give them back the money and rescind the contract," Arum said. "And Golden Boy, we got a letter from their lawyers (Tuesday) saying that they didn't know about the prohibition.

"But they want to see a copy of the contract, which we are sending them, and I think they (Golden Boy) may back out."

Eric Gomez, a vice president at Golden Boy and longtime pal of De La Hoya, said voiding Pacquiao's contract with Golden Boy is not going to happen.

"We do have Manny Pacquiao signed to a legal, binding contract," Gomez said. "We feel that we did nothing wrong. Our attorneys have looked over the contract and they feel very confident that he (Arum) doesn't have a case. We like to do business ethically. If it wasn't ethical, we wouldn't do it.

"We have contacted Manny and he feels confident, his attorneys feel confident. If Bob Arum has a quarrel with us, he knows how to get in touch with our attorneys."

If Golden Boy does not tear up the contract, Arum said he would consider filing a lawsuit.

DE LA HOYA

ARUM

PACQUIAO

"Well, yeah, it's always open to us," he said. "Our contract was violated, and depending on the facts, it may have been tortuously interfered with by Golden Boy."

Richard Schaefer, CEO of Golden Boy, said Friday that if Arum believes he has grounds for a lawsuit, bring it on.

"If Arum wants to sue us, then he can sue us," Schaefer said. "If he thinks he has something, we will defend ourselves." *NYTNews Service*

(Ed's note: The article is a column written by Robert Morales for the Long Beach Press-Telegram, distributed by the New York Times News Service)

Taiwan golf: Rosales, Que way behind

CHINESE TAIPEI—GERARD ROSALES FLOUNdered with a 78 yesterday, falling to a two-over total after three rounds of the Taiwan Masters at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

Rosales was in a four-way tie for 30th place, 10 shots behind Rahil Gangjee of India, who shot a 72 for an eight-under card.

Local bets Lin Wen-hong and Lin Wen-tang trail Ganjee in the race for the top purse in the $500,000 tournament.

Lin Wen-hong had a 64 to soar to second place, a stroke off the lead with a seven-under total. Lin Wen-tang was two down with a six-under total after a 67.

Angelo Que shot a 77 and joined Rosales in making the halfway cut, but was moored at seven over, 15 shots off pace. Que is currently alone at 47th place.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

RPN 9 telecasts Bata IPT victory

FILIPINO POOL FANS ARE IN FOR A TREAT WHEN RPN 9 telecasts the International Pool Tour World Open 8-Ball Championships won by Efren "Bata" Reyes beginning 10:30 p.m. Tuesday. It is presented by San Miguel Beer.

Alcano, Luat stay unbeaten

FORMER AZBILLIARDS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR RONATO ALCANO AND 2006 SMB Asian 9-Ball Tour Taiwan leg winner Rodolfo Luat pulled off easy victories yesterday to stretch their winning runs in the 2006 US Open 9-Ball championship at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The 34-year-old Alcano from Calamba City outplayed Jerry Slivka, 11-1, and advanced to the sixth round against 2004 US Open champion Gabe Owen, who nipped fellow US Open titlist Corey Deuel, 11-10, of the United States.

Luat, 49, from Angeles City, downed Darren Appleton, 11-7, and will next meet Charlie Bryant, who beat Trevor Braymore, 11-8.

Other Filipinos still in contention for the top purse of $40,000 were Antonio Gabica of Lapu-Lapu City, and Lee Van Corteza and Gandy Valle, both of Davao City, who beat their rivals in the loser's bracket.

Gabica trounced Chris Bartram and DJ McGinley, 11-2, and Rick Howard, 11-5, to move up against Shawn Putnam.

Valle, on the other hand, remained a big revelation in this most prestigious event in the US by demolishing former champion Rodney Morris, 11-5, Steve Lillis, 11-4, and Po Cheng Kuo, 11-5.

His next foe is Stevie Moore, who crushed Joey Testa, 11-6, with three-time world champion Earl Strickland waiting for him in the next round.

Corteza hurdled ex-world straight ball ruler Allen Hopkins, Shane Van Boening and Charles Altomare to qualify against Ryan McCreesh in the next round.

Not as fortunate were US-based Jose "Amang" Parica and Santos Sambajon who suffered their second losses and bowed out of the tournament. Parica lost to Marcus Chamat while Sambajon yielded to Tony Robles.

The other players in the winner's brackets were David Broxson, CJ Wiley, Troy Frank and Robb Saez.

Broxson nipped John Schmidt, 11-4, Wiley shocked Strickland, 11-3, Frank edged McCreesh, 11-10, and Robb Saez surprised 2001 World Pool Cardiff champion Mika Immonen, 11-7.

Marlon Bernardino

RODOLFO LUAT: Eyeing big money.

Orcollo gains share of lead in World Pool

PHILIPPINE MONEY GAME KING DENNIS Orcollo is showing his mettle in the six-man invitational of 2006 PartyCasino.com World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland.

ORCOLLO

The 27-year-old Orcollo beat former World Pool runner-up Pei Wei-chang of Chinese Taipei, 6-4, in the opening session then forced a 5-5 draw with ex-World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany in the evening session to gain a share of the lead in the event offering $20,000 to the champion.

With his 1-win, 1-draw record, Orcollo was in a bind with local ace Radoslaw Babica.

Babica opened his bid with a draw against Ralf Souquet of Germany, 5-5, then stunned Niels Feijen of Holland, 6-4, in the next game. Feijein, who beat Hohmann (6-4) in the first game, dropped to 1-win, 1-loss.

Souquet, on the other hand, settled for his second straight draw against Chang, 5-5.

In the third round, Orcollo will face Babica for the solo leadership board in this event using the format of best of 10 games (racks).

Other matches pit Hohmann against Chang and Feijen versus Souquet.

"Dennis is off to a good start," said his benefactor Perry Mariano. "I hope he can sustain this and bring glory to the country."

GMA Cup chess meet up Nov. 17

THE COUNTRY'S TOP GRANDMASTERS (GMs) Mark Paragua, Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. and Eugene Torre lead the hunt for the $6,000 top prize when the 2006 President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Cup International Chess Championship reels off on Nov. 17-23.

PARAGUA

ANTONIO

National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. said that event will be held either at the Pagcor Casino or the Duty Free shop, both in Parañaque City.

The seven-day tournament is also expected to attract the country's top chessers and foreign bets from Europe, America, former Russian republics as well the neighboring Asian countries.

"This is a chance for our players to earn Fide ratings and at the same time, it will serve as a tune-up for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar," said Pichay.

The total pot is $26,100 (approximately P1,305,000).

The runner-up will get $4,000, the third placer will pocket $3,000, the fourth placer will earn $2,500, the fifth placer will receive $2,000 plus trophy, and sixth to 10th placers will get $1,500, $1,000, $800, $700, and $600, respectively. *National master Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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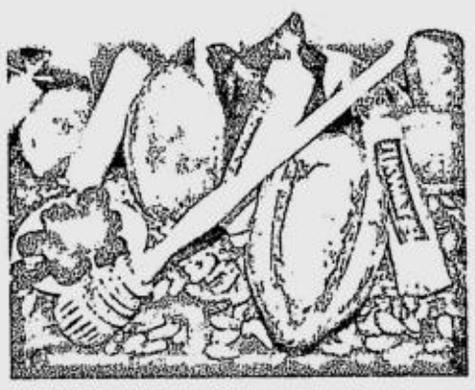
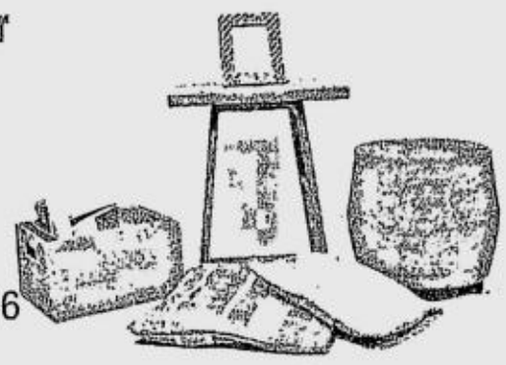
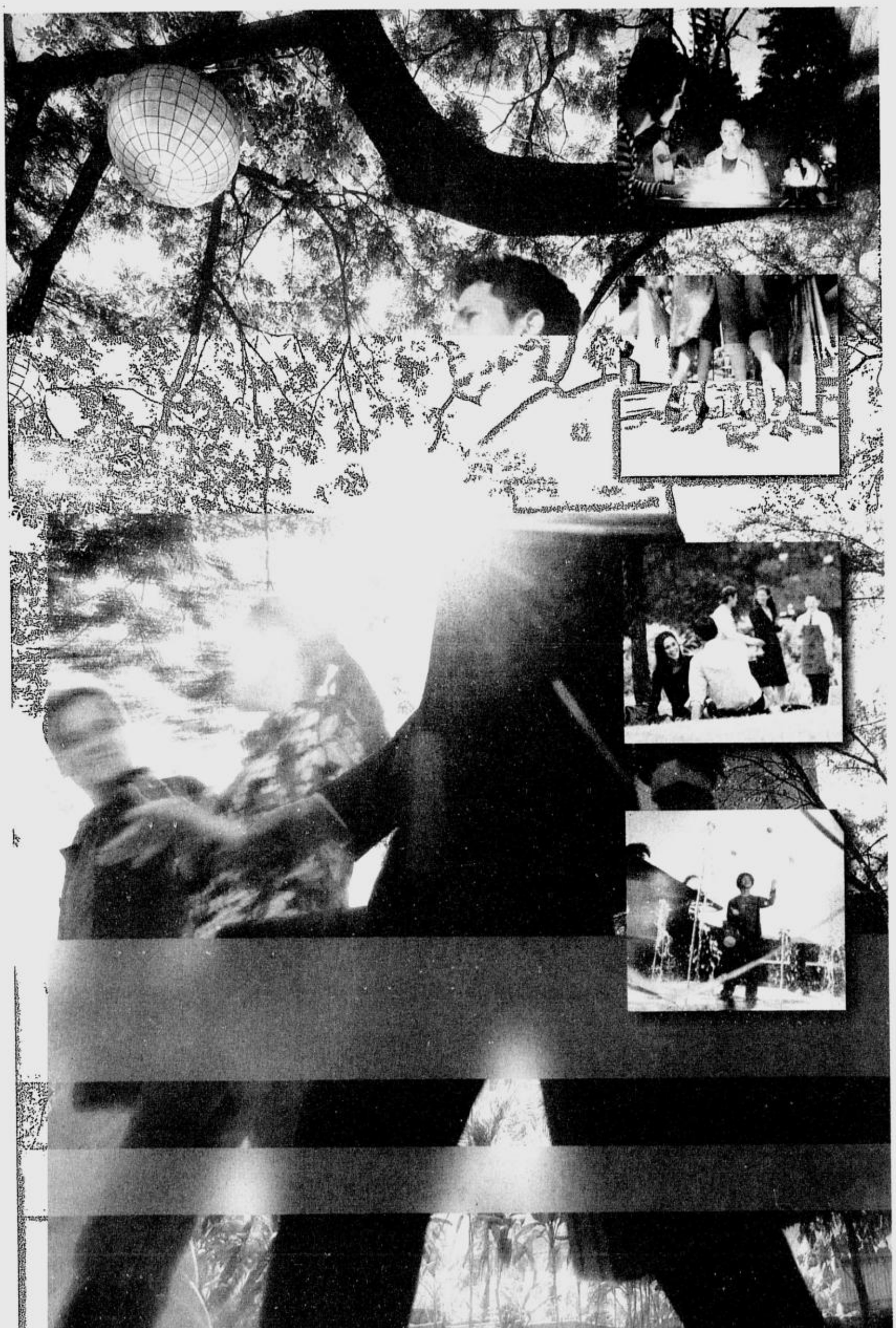


■ **Neither storm, nor fire stopped this couple** /B6





The road to take

– whatever your

passion.

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Scion of known families takes uncharted road

He could have gotten a job with dad but decided on taking own steps

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BEING A ROXAS AND an Elizalde has its perks.

Aside from growing up with the best of everything that money can buy, Francisco Jose "Patxi" R. Elizalde could have just simply gone to his father after college and ask for a cushy job in the family's extensive sugar business.

But the second of four boys born to Francisco Elizalde did not.

Elizalde branched out instead to try his luck as an entrepreneur in the retail industry that is marked by fickle customers and white hot competition.

In the retail business, his family names can only take him so far.

The holder of an Agricultural Economics degree from the University of Vermont had to rely on his own wits, and that was exactly how he liked it.

Elizalde made his first big jump into the retail business in January 2002 when he got the deal for the family business to distribute the Arena line of swimsuits in the Philippines, which was very popular in Europe.

The opening of Puma and New Balance stores soon followed in late 2002 and 2003. In 2004, the company also got the right to distribute the Croakies brand of eyewear retainers.

"As an entrepreneur, I was always jumping at opportunities," Elizalde tells the INQUIRER.

He admits, however, that being new in retail business meant having his share of disappointments and missteps.

Thus, as Elizalde opened more stores, he was closing others that did not work out as well as he had hoped.

"I was perhaps a little too trusting," Elizalde explains.

Then last year, he decided to totally get out of the store business saying that it took a lot of manpower, and operating and marketing costs to get the store business—especially in the malls—off the ground.

But another opportunity came along in 2004 when his brother spotted a pair of Dupe flip flops from Brazil during a trip to Europe.

Sensing that Dupe will pose a challenge to the popular Havaianas line, Elizalde immediately contacted the owner of Dupe in Brazil to explore the possibility of bringing the flip flops to the Philippines.

Elizalde says that the Tavares de Melo group of Brazil immediately responded and Elizalde got his first shipment in just 50 days.

"As it turns out, we have a lot in common because the family is also into sugar," Elizalde says.

Dupe came to the picture about five months after Havaianas and Elizalde admits that Dupe is a far second in the flip flops market.

He says, however, that Dupe is not exactly in the same market as Havaianas considering that its line costs about half that of Havaianas, but with the same offer of colors, styles and comfort.

"Dupe has two collections a year of 15 to 20 new styles and in two to three colors each. We try to break them every quarter so there is always something new to offer," Elizalde says.

Thankfully, the flip flops market is huge enough so Elizalde has no complaints. Business is picking up and the prospects are good.

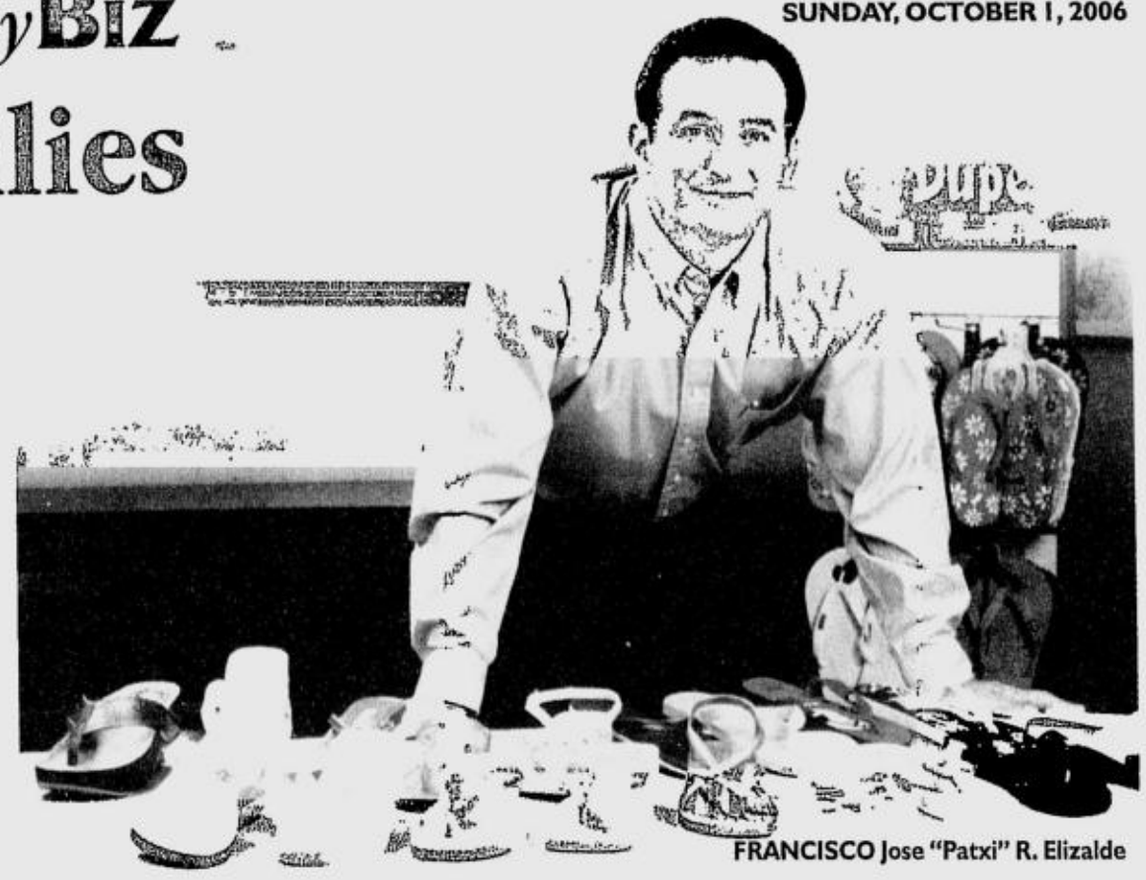
Learning from past experience, he does not have stand alone stores anymore for Dupe and instead rides on the stores of other athletic or retail shops.

It is not only cheaper in the long run, but is easier to manage, Elizalde says.

"We are slowly spreading our wings and growing on our own," Elizalde says, "we do not have to do too much marketing."

Aside from Dupe, the retail division of Elro Commercial and Industrial Corp., has brought in the Ipanema and Grendha brands owned by Grendene SA, the largest manufacturer of shoes in Brazil.

Ipanema is a more expensive line of flip flops while Grendha is in the casual shoes category, offering comfortable and stylish women's shoes made of PVC.



FRANCISCO Jose "Patxi" R. Elizalde

"We just introduced the Grendha shoes in June and the sales are surpassing our projections," Elizalde says.

He says it is the challenge of building brands that keeps him looking for more opportunities despite the setbacks and the challenges that he has to go through.

Elizalde says he inherited the trait from his father, Francisco, who also ventured into uncharted territory when he set up his own company in the 1980s with just his secretary as the first employee.

Today, Elro Commercial and Industrial Corp. is involved in food distribution, fast food operation, real estate development and agribusiness, including sugar production and seafood processing.

The diversification into new businesses such as retail distribution and organic fertilizer production was brought about by the volatile nature of the sugar business, and the 40-year-old Elizalde has been leading the charge.

Elizalde, after all, has the most experience in his family as he had a number of small businesses before going for the big time.

He says he used to have about eight outlets of Pansit Malabon Express and he would often prepare *bilaos* of *pansit malabon* for delivery to clients if called for.

When he was into seafood trading, he would talk to the suppliers from Palawan and Mindanao himself or go to Navotas to get a good deal on fish.

"I do not mind getting my hands dirty," Elizalde says.

Elizalde draws on this early experience and his learnings from his three years of managing the export of San Miguel Corp.'s seafood products to build the retail business of the family.

He says he is heavily involved in the operations, and deals with the principals himself. He also has a hand in choosing the styles and types of shoes and flip flops that enter the market.

At the same time, he is exploring the possibility of bringing in even more brands to the country and putting up more businesses.

He has never been more optimistic, and has even gone to the medical transcription business because of the growing demand for business process outsourcing services.

"I am not the type to give up easily," Elizalde says, "and I also like the excitement of closing a deal and starting things up."

He adds that he gets his high not so much from the profit, but the challenge of building something and nurturing a brand's growth.

"It is always about being on the lookout for the next big thing," Elizalde says.

New P&G head supports causes of blind sports achiever

PROCTER & GAMBLE (P&G) PHILIPPINES president and GM James W. Lafferty reaffirmed his support for the inspirational, sports-for-a-cause mission of a 36-year-old blind Kenyan with whom he and five other visually impaired persons climbed the 19,340-foot Uhuru Peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa in September last year.

At Lafferty's invitation, Douglas Isaac Sidialo, who lost his sight during the Aug. 7, 1998 terrorist bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi, recently visited the Philippines and delivered inspirational messages before separate audiences of visually impaired Filipino athletes, students and work trainees over seven days.

P&G PHILIPPINES president and GM James W. Lafferty welcomes blind Kenyan achiever Douglas Sidialo.

"I don't look at myself as a blind person or a terrorist victim. I look at myself now as an instrument of courage and hope," said Sidialo, who has embarked on a crusade to inspire persons with disabilities all over the world through speeches, books and sports.

The Kenyan said he has been challenging the differently-abled people on his speaking tour "to rise above the ordinary and engage in sports seriously like I have done. I'm always telling my audience that it is only when they do something for themselves that they will be noticed and recognized."

Sidialo said he looks forward to taking part in, after becoming the first blind African to have climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tour Dafrique, a 12,000-kilometer cycling marathon to start in January 2007 that would bring him from one end of Africa to the other. "I can't thank people like Jim (Lafferty) and companies like P&G enough for continuously supporting my causes. It is because of their assistance that I am able to go on with my inspirational mission."

The Kenyan is also chair of both the Kenya Blind Sports Association and the Kenya National Paralympic Committee, and secretary general of the International Blind Sports Association of Africa.

Lafferty described Sidialo and his kind as "representing the best of humanity in their relentless and wondrously successful struggle to rise above their disabilities and meet life head-on."

Of the climb to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Sidialo said Lafferty had served as his guide. "Jim (Lafferty) was moving with a cane and a bell strung around his wrist. The bell would ring as he thumped the cane on the ground, so I just followed the sound on the way up."

Lafferty said he got on the Kilimanjaro team through his friendship with Eric Weinmayer of Colorado, the first blind man to have reached the top of Mt. Everest. Eight blind persons had set out for the climb of whom only six, including Sidialo and Weinmayer, completed the ascend.

"Like me, the P&G workforce all over the world forges on with their 'can-do' attitude. I'm touched to learn that the company employees here are achieving even more outside work. It was inspiring to learn that they are building homes for the homeless, helping clean the environment, and that one of them (Romy Garduce) just recently became one of the first three Filipinos to have reached the summit of Mt. Everest."

Empowering the youth through entrepreneurship

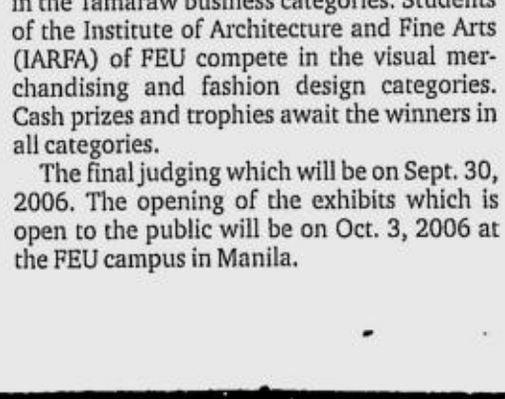
FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY (FEU) HAS PRODUCED many taipans and outstanding businessmen in the Philippines—Henry Sy, Lucio Tan, Alfonso Yuchengco, Ramon Ang, Wilfrido Tecson, Benjamin Punongbayan and Menardo Jimenez.

Today, the Institute of Accounts, Business and Finance (IABF) of FEU embarks on the challenge of producing a new generation of entrepreneurs. The annual FEU Business Show is the biggest school-based business plan competition in the country and has taken the lead putting the Philippines on the map by winning in numerous national and international competitions. It parallels the Oxford Business Plan Competition in the United Kingdom as the oldest school-based business plan competition in the world—both at eight years.

In the past seven years, the event has produced over 700 business concepts coming from about 9,000 business students. As a result of this program, some of the students become entrepreneurs after college. Some join the industry and government, acquire good experience, embark on an entrepreneurial venture later on in their careers.

The business concepts were diverse enough and epitomized global concerns, social responsibility, innovation and high potential for success.

FEU won the Entrepreneurial Idol Competition in Harvard University this schoolyear while last year it won the Jaycees International Best Business Plan of the World Competition in Vienna, Austria. FEU is making another bid for its next world championship trophy in Seoul, South Korea, in November 2006. FEU entries also made it as either finalist or semi-finalist in other international competitions such as the Silicon Valley Boomer Venture Summit in California, USA, the HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards and the Business in Development Challenge in the Netherlands.



DEAN Danny Cabulay (2nd from right) with team that won a Harvard University competition.

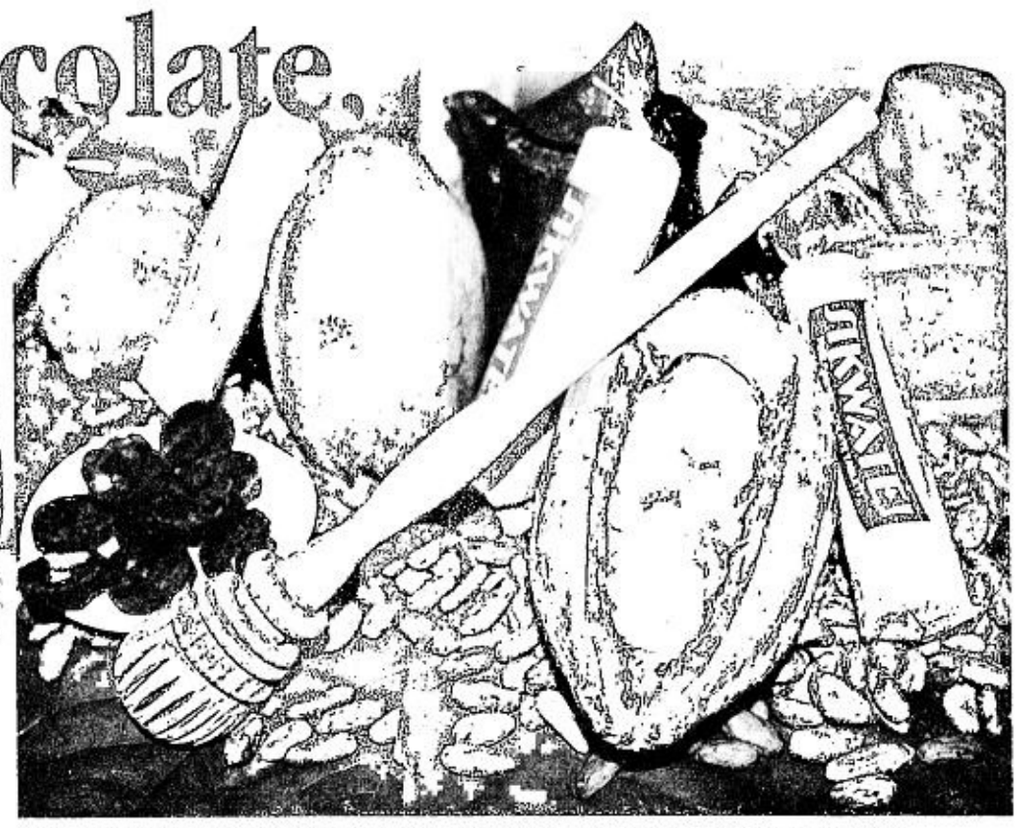
This year, the 8th FEU Business Show opened its doors to other schools. There will be a separate category for other colleges and universities all over the Philippines under the open category. Students will submit three-page executive summaries of their business plans. Meanwhile, high school students will submit a one-page business concept paper for the high school category. Homegrown business concepts by FEU-IABF students compete in the Tamaraw business categories. Students of the Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts (IARFA) of FEU compete in the visual merchandising and fashion design categories. Cash prizes and trophies await the winners in all categories.

The final judging which will be on Sept. 30, 2006. The opening of the exhibits which is open to the public will be on Oct. 3, 2006 at the FEU campus in Manila.

Move over Belgian chocolate, here comes *tablea*

Century old Filipino cocoa drink aims at tapping export market

CACAO, Chocolate industy in San Isidro, Davao Del Norte



DARK chocolate produced by townfolks of San Isidro in Davao Del Norte province

Text & photos by Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

SAN ISIDRO, DAVAO DEL NORTE—VISITORS here always make sure they do not miss the hot syrupy native chocolate drink popularly known as "sikwate."

Sonio Sanchez, the town's tourism officer, says the hospitality of the people of San Isidro is embodied in the drink that many people consider to be an aphrodisiac.

"It's actually our welcome drink to our guests," he says.

Sanchez says it is normal for households here to serve the beverage, which is brewed from "tablea."

Tablea is semi-processed dark chocolate derived from roasted cacao beans.

Cacao trees abound in this town, which used to be a part of Asuncion and Kapalong. Some 24,100 people live here.

"This town has a lot to offer," Mayor Tomas Abelita Jr. says.

Abelita says that living up to name as the cacao capital of Davao del Norte, San Isidro has about 4,000 hectares of land devoted to the crop.

The people here even plant cacao in their backyards.

On average, farmers harvest 1-2 tons of cacao beans per hectare. The market price of cacao beans per kilo sometimes reaches P80.

But Abelita says what has been keeping them more optimistic about the future of the town's cacao industry is that more investors are coming in.

He says that although cacao has been one of the traditional crops and source of income for the farmers, it is only now that they pooled their resources and worked with local investors and the government to promote and market their tablea.

The farmers even formed Chocolate de San Isidro (CSI) Inc., and later partnered with Converging Systems and Innovations Trade Link, a group composed of young entrepreneurs based in Davao City, for marketing and product development.

About 10 tons of cacao beans a week and some 1,250 dozens of tablea a day are sold to the market.

Sanchez says that currently, the bulk of their production goes to domestic demand.

"But it's only a matter of time before we will eventually ship our product to the foreign market," he says.

Sanchez says that Belgium Chocolate, a well known manufacturer and distributor of chocolates based in Belgium, has signified interest in buying either their processed product or just the beans, after having taste-tested it.

"We start little, but we think globally," he says.

For the locals, Sanchez says the growing cocoa industry is one way of earning money.

Housewives in the town process the cacao beans into tablea while their husbands tend to their farms.

Councilor Victoria Gader says some 20 housewives are currently into the tablea-making process and more are joining.

"The housewives no longer take the simple role of taking care of their homes. They are now active movers for the economic development of their community," she says.

Tablea making is a labor-intensive process when done the traditional way but officials says a factory with customized processing machine will soon rise in the town.

Abelita says the people of this town knew there is still a lot of work ahead to develop the industry but for them, the opportunity is already there.

Coffee as an antioxidant?

RECOGNIZING THE GLOBAL TREND TOwards wellness, Nescafé coffee has conducted extensive research and development to develop a coffee product for the health conscious.

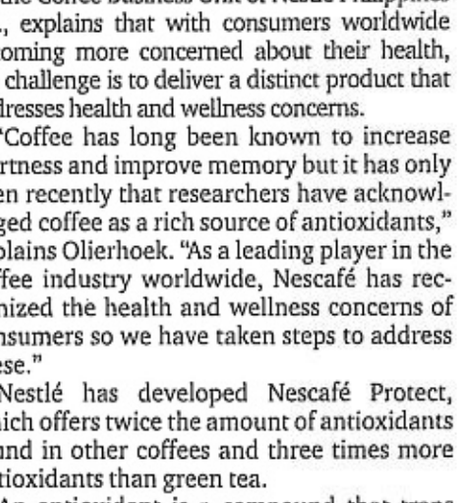
Bruno Olierhoek, Business Executive Manager for the Coffee Business Unit of Nestlé Philippines Inc., explains that with consumers worldwide becoming more concerned about their health, the challenge is to deliver a distinct product that addresses health and wellness concerns.

"Coffee has long been known to increase alertness and improve memory but it has only been recently that researchers have acknowledged coffee as a rich source of antioxidants," explains Olierhoek. "As a leading player in the coffee industry worldwide, Nescafé has recognized the health and wellness concerns of consumers so we have taken steps to address these."

Nestlé has developed Nescafé Protect, which offers twice the amount of antioxidants found in other coffees and three times more antioxidants than green tea.

An antioxidant is a compound that traps harmful free radicals and prevents the oxidation of other molecules. It protects against cellular oxidative damage to the body's proteins, lipids and genetic material (DNA), which contribute to signs of ageing and the development of various chronic diseases.

A healthy, balanced diet provides a steady source of antioxidants such as vitamins A, C and E, which can readily be found in fruits and vegetables, while other kinds of antioxidants such as catechins and polyphenols are found in beverages like tea, cocoa and coffee.



NESTLÉ Philippines claims Protect contains twice as much polyphenols, the antioxidant found in coffee, than other coffees.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Beyond trees, a triumph in social mobilization

MORE THAN HALF A MILLION TRESS planted in one day.

With this multi-sectoral feat, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources scored a coup of sorts last Aug. 25 with the opening salvo of the massive Green Philippine Highways project. It was an impressive illustration of the DENR's new strategic track: social mobilization.

"Stewardship of the environment is not the exclusive domain of the DENR and a fraternity of activist NGOs (non-governmental organizations)," Secretary Angelo T. Reyes explained. "It is a shared responsibility, and we want to emphasize that. The Department would like to reach out more-to make its technical resources available to more sectors and communities through various programs-to make this happen."

Under the Green Philippine Highways project, more than 3,500 institutions, from companies and NGOs to schools and religious groups, stepped up to adopt stretches of the country's major roadways over the next three years. An estimated 2 million participants, including armies of schoolchildren, volunteered to help plant seedlings and saplings last Aug. 25.

To ensure an ample supply of saplings and seedlings for the project, the DENR regional offices tapped its own stock and those of private tree nurseries across the country. The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) contributed some 250,000 seedlings to the project.

Sponsors and volunteer groups included big companies like Unilever, Shell, Petron, Caltex, Total, PTT and Liquigaz and well-networked organizations like Couples for Christ and Namfrel. In some areas, institutional partners enthusiastically took on the full-range of responsibilities for the project. In General Santos City, for example, Sagitarrius Mines Inc contributed narra, mahogany and tuai seedlings from its nursery in Tampakan, South Cotabato and mobilized B'laan and Christian communities and schoolchildren, along with its employees, in the tree-planting effort along the highway leading to the airport.

With the massive multi-sectoral support drawn to Green Philippine Highways, the project target has expanded from some 3,500 km along the main national highways to 6,506 km along major roads in 64 provinces in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

Asked whether he thought Filipinos had set a world record for simultaneous planting of trees in a single day last Aug. 25, Reyes said: "That would be just icing on the cake. The important thing is that we've achieved the short-term objective of mobilizing Filipinos from all sectors and all walks of life-across the political spectrum-to rally behind the environment."

"Over the medium-term, the challenge is to sustain that momentum so that communities and their fellow stewards would nurture those saplings to full maturity and add even more trees on vacant patches along our major roads and highways," he added. "If they are able to do that, then we can be assured of meeting the long-term goal of enhancing air quality in pollution-prone areas throughout the archipelago."

'GENERATION RX' OFFICIAL HEALTH SHOW OF PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Visivo Productions Inc proudly announces its health show, 'Generation Rx', which airs every Sunday at ABC 5 from 9 to 9:30 a.m., has been chosen as the official health show of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA). The memorandum of agreement was signed by Dr. Jose Asa Sabili (PMA president, 2006) and Adrian E. Concepcion (executive producer, Visivo Productions Inc) Sept. 21 at the PMA office in Quezon City.

Thousands of jobs available for seafarers, OFW families

THOUSANDS OF JOBS HERE AND ABROAD await qualified applicants who will visit the job fair of the Filipino Seafarers Family Expo & Forum 2006 and Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing & Home Essentials Trade Fair 2006 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City.

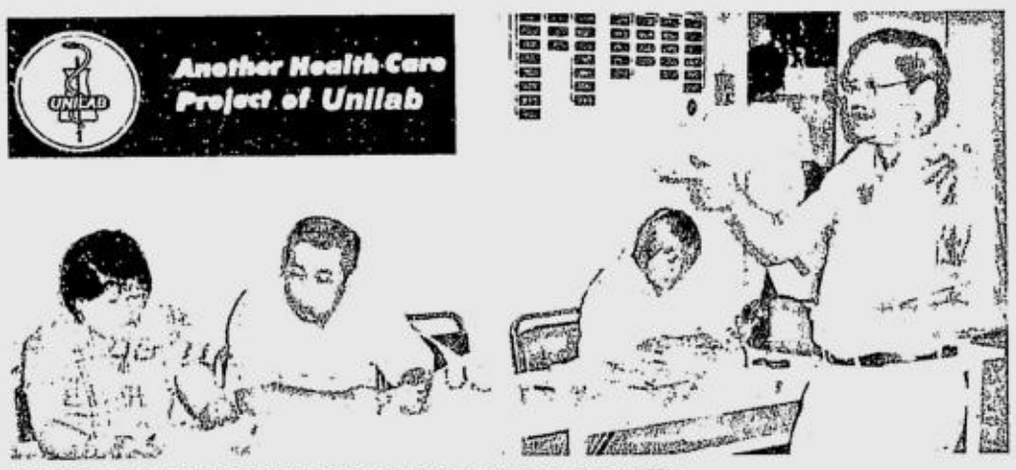
The job fair, which is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., was organized by the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation Inc (912-5803) in cooperation with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Public Employment Service Office-Pasay City and the Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc (Pasei).

Pasei president Victor Fernandez Jr said thousands of overseas jobs will be made available to applicants from their POEA-licensed recruitment agency members. The available jobs are for medical staff, information technology professionals, hotel workers, maintenance workers, construction workers, domestic helpers, skilled and technical workers, and service workers. Local jobs will be conducted by Peso-Pasay.

POFW-SMENFI president George Arriola said there will be no entrance, application and registration fees during the three-day job fair which ends on Sunday.

POFW-SMENFI special events director Shelah Doromas said that the expo will also feature free seminars on livelihood, investment and business opportunities by Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, free medical and dental services by Friendly Hills Medical Services, free legal advice by OFWs Protect, affordable but quality housing projects by reliable real estate companies, and free raffle and Star City ride tickets.

Sponsored by Aquaprime, China Bank, Camella Homes, Citibank, Crown Asia, Ford (Libis), Globe Telecom/Innove Communications, PLDT Internet Café and Primer Group as sponsors, the expo is supported by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Manny Villar, House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr, Sen. Franklin Drilon, Sen. Mar Roxas and other government officials and agencies.



UNILAB, PPS FORM DENGUE WORKING GROUP

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's leading pharmaceutical company, has partnered with the Philippine Pediatrics Society (PPS) in forming the Dengue Working Group that will formulate the guidelines on dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue fever management for doctors. Unilab, through its Unilab Medical Education and Development (Umed) and Scientific Databank units, provided clinical studies on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation, management, diagnosis, and prevention and control to the PPS Dengue Working Group. Unilab's support for this initiative is consistent with its commitment to help protect public health through partnership with medical associations like PPS. Shown is Dr. Jaime Santos (right) of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) facilitating one of the group discussions.

SuperFerry cuts rates via 'Sail Sale'

LEADING SHIPPING COMPANY SuperFerry cuts once again its already-low-priced rates to select destinations in Visayas and Mindanao through its SuperFerry "Sail Sale" promo.

The SuperFerry "Sail Sale" offers one rate starting at P799 going to Visayas (Bacolod, Cebu, Coron, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Puerto Princesa, Tagbilaran), and one rate starting at P1499 going to Mindanao (Cagayan, Cotabato, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Iligan, Nasipit, Ozamis, Surigao and Zamboanga). These rates, according to SuperFerry AVP for sales and marketing Andrew Deyto, "are inclusive of VAT and surcharge."

The selling period for the SuperFerry "Sail Sale" promo is from Oct. 1 to 7 for the Oct. 21 to Nov. 21 sailing schedule.

Deyto added that this move is "in line with SuperFerry's continuous effort in helping promote tourism by encouraging low-cost travel to different regions."

For more details, call the SuperFerry hotline at 528-7000 in Metro Manila, or text SuperFerry SMS at 0917-8892421.

Free clinic kicks off St Luke's 103rd year celebration

A FREE CLINIC AT THE GROUNDS OF THE Quezon City Hall today marks the start of the month-long celebration of St. Luke's Medical Center's 103rd anniversary.

Tagged "Quality Patient Care and Patient Safety: From Good to Great -- Year 3," some 2,500 Quezon City residents are expected to avail themselves of the medical and surgical mission, said Dr. Joven R. Cuanang, St. Luke's senior vice president for medical affairs and medical director and the overall chair of the 103rd anniversary celebration organizing committee.

"Our medical mission is a yearly activity which we organize in cooperation with the Quezon City government," Cuanang said. "The beneficiaries are usually pre-determined by them and this year, we will be serving tricycle drivers and their families."

The highlight of the celebrations is the weeklong schedule of activities, which kicks off with a flag-raising ceremony on Oct. 16.

On Oct. 17, a photo exhibit highlighting the history of Philippine medicine will open at the St. Luke's College of Medicine-William H. Quasha Memorial. To be present during the opening are: Cuanang; Robert F. Kuan, chair of St. Luke's board of trustees; Rt. Rev. Manuel C. Lumpias, treasurer of St. Luke's board of trustees; Dr. Arsenio Cantos, former St. Luke's medical director; and Dr. Willie Ong.

"We will highlight the participation of St. Luke's in the history of medicine by coming up with two panels of our own photos," Cuanang said. "This project will be led by Dr. Augusto G. Reyes, our assistant medical director."

On Oct. 18, the consecration of St. Luke's board of trustees will be headed by its chair Kuan. There will be a mass at the second floor conference room of the main hospital building. A recognition day program will follow, recognizing exemplary and loyal associates.

The mornings of Oct. 19 and 20 will be devoted to the presentation of quality monitors in line with St. Luke's goal to improve patient care and safety.

"This year, we will be doing something different. We will be having a separate recognition activity for our doctors and this will be held on the evening of Oct. 19," Cuanang said.

The doctors' socials will not only recognize St. Luke's top 100 doctors but will also recognize those who have given prestige to the hospital by speaking in international conferences.

The inauguration of St. Luke's Center for Aesthetic and Plastic Surgery will be another highlight on the afternoon of Oct. 20. The center's primary goal is to be a center of excellence in aesthetic plastic surgery and to provide a venue for patients seeking to enhance their well-being by providing board-certified plastic surgeons in a Joint Commission International accredited facility.

"The Center is going to be a hospital-based facility which will ensure the safety of our patients," Cuanang said. "It will be manned by experts who have a background in plastic surgery. This is our way of contributing to the government's medical tourism program."

The culminating activities for the weeklong celebration will be the family day and bingo social, which will be held on Oct. 21. The family day activities will focus on lectures that will promote healthcare.

"What is different about our bingo social is that the organizers will be soliciting prizes from the administration and the heads of the different centers, departments and institutes of St. Luke's," Cuanang said. "It is really going to be a St. Luke's Medical Center family affair."

Celebrate good times with Jollibee Chickenjoy

"CRISPYLICIOUS" SKIN AND "JUICY-licious" chicken meat all cooked and seasoned to perfection-these are the trademark qualities of Jollibee Chickenjoy, the Filipinos' favorite chicken for more than two decades now. It is no secret that, in this country, Chickenjoy is popular because of the special recipe that no other restaurant has been able to duplicate. To cater to the different tastes of the growing number of Chickenjoy fans, Jollibee now offers two variants, original and spicy, as well as the best-selling Chickenjoy value meals.

The trademark "*langhap-sarap*" taste has definitely endeared itself to the customers' taste buds, making Chickenjoy a part of Filipinos' lives.

Cel Cervantes, a call center supervisor, believes that the success of Chickenjoy is largely because of its family appeal. She relates the story of how she passed by a Jollibee store to get herself dinner and decided to surprise her family with some take-home Chickenjoy.

The surprise was much welcomed and well-timed, since her mom had yet to start on dinner. "I told them '*Yun na ang libre ko ah*'. And my youngest brother said, '*Naku, ate*, perfect,'" Cel adds. "It was one of those moments," she says, "when you feel you did something right. I suddenly felt happy and proud that I had a good job and could provide my family simple but delicious pleasures like that."

Inspired by such stories, Jollibee's latest TV commercials also depict the parts that Chickenjoy plays in the lives of families, *barkadas* and couples.

Warm memories shared over a plate of juicy and crispy fried chicken are what Filipinos remember about Chickenjoy, helping make consumption mean more than just good food. Chickenjoy, whether original or spicy, makes everyday dining a special occasion.

Would you like to share your special Chickenjoy memories? E-mail your stories at feedback@jollibee.com.ph. Who knows? Your story may be the inspiration for the next Jollibee Chickenjoy commercials.

Best made even better

With rice and a beverage line in the best-selling Jollibee Value Meals, Chickenjoy is an all-time meal favorite among working Filipinos. While other fastfood restaurants offer similar fare, Jollibee Chickenjoy has a firm grasp on the fried chicken taste that Pinoys love. With fried golden skin and plump juicy meat, how else can the best fried chicken get any better?

Just when you thought there's no topping the "crispylicious" and "juicylicious" goodness, Jollibee gives the Chickenjoy Value Meals a twist with all-new sidings: Mashed Potato and Mushroom Rice.

Enhance your Chickenjoy experience with these special additions that best complement your favorite fried chicken. Try the rich and buttery goodness of Mashed Potato topped with Jollibee's thick delicious gravy and steaming Mushroom Rice with mushroom-flavored sauce and real mushroom bits.

Enjoy Chickenjoy for a more nourishing lunch with colleagues or a filling dinner during overtime by adding P15 for Jollibee's Mashed Potato or P9 for the Mushroom Rice. Better yet, reward yourself via Chickenjoy with both the Mashed Potato and Mushroom Rice for an extra P24.

Giving a new twist to a favorite meal can perk you up. Mix and match Jollibee's Mashed Potato and Mushroom Rice with Chickenjoy original or spicy variant and in one- or two-piece Value Meals. Jollibee's Value Meal options custom-fit your taste and preferences, the way you like it.

Juice with Sangkap Pinoy Seal

THE SANGKAP PINOY SEAL PROgram, spearheaded by the Department of Health (DOH) was introduced to address micronutrient malnutrition in the Filipino diet. Food products fortified with Vitamin A, Iodine and Iron or a combination of these vitamins and minerals are given the Sangkap Pinoy Seal of Approval to signify that they comply with the fortification and quality regulations of the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD).

Juslicious, a division of Sydenham Laboratories Inc, has formulated a health drink for children popularly known as Jus' 4 Kids. According to Nina Peña, marketing officer, this product supports the DOH food fortification program. A breakthrough formula, it satisfies the necessary nutrients generally lacking in the Filipino child's diet. It contains Vitamins A, C, E, Zinc and Iodine to strengthen the immune system. In addition, the Orange flavor called Zzooom! Growth Enhancer contains CGF or Chlorella Growth Factor for growth, while the mango flavor called IQ Tonic Brain Booster contains Taurine, which promotes brain cell development. It is a good practice to look for the Sangkap Pinoy Seal when buying food products for children. Jus' 4 Kids is now available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

Mitsubishi cancels Strada Launch Weekend

MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES announced that the all-new Strada Launch Weekend scheduled to be held at the Bonifacio Global City from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 has been cancelled due to typhoon damage to the tent facilities constructed for this project. The Launch Weekend was to showcase MMPC new models led by the all-new Mitsubishi Strada.

Be Home for Christmas

STATELAND
YOUR DREAM. OUR COMMITMENT.

Dear Dad,

Radios are starting to play Christmas songs now and I feel excited because I know that you will be coming home soon and we will be moving to a new house! Dad, I am sending you a picture of the house that you bought. It's beautiful, Dad! I like it there. Mom, Martin, Nadine and ate Stephanie like it too. And what more, it comes with free appliances like TV, home theater system, refrigerator, washing machine, microwave oven and aircon.

Dad, I hope you come home early so we can put up our Christmas tree in our new house.

Love,
Justine

P.S. Don't forget to bring dolls and chocolates.

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of our special buyers' rewards and discounts

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FOR HOUSE AND LOT

HOME APPLIANCE SHOWCASE
FOR LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

Gran Seville — CABUYAO, LAGUNA
CRYSTAL PLACE — IMUS, CAVITE
Chester Place — DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE
NORTH OLYMPUS IV PRIME — QUEZON CITY

"... God is the builder of everything." - Hebrews 3:4

LOT AREAS: GRAN SEVILLE 120 SQ.M. TO 600 SQ.M.; CRYSTAL PLACE 125 SQ.M. TO 600 SQ.M.; CHESTER PLACE 90 SQ.M. TO 600 SQ.M.; NORTH OLYMPUS IV 90 SQ.M. TO 120 SQ.M.

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G/F Comfoods Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Cor. Chino Roces St. Makati City

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- EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
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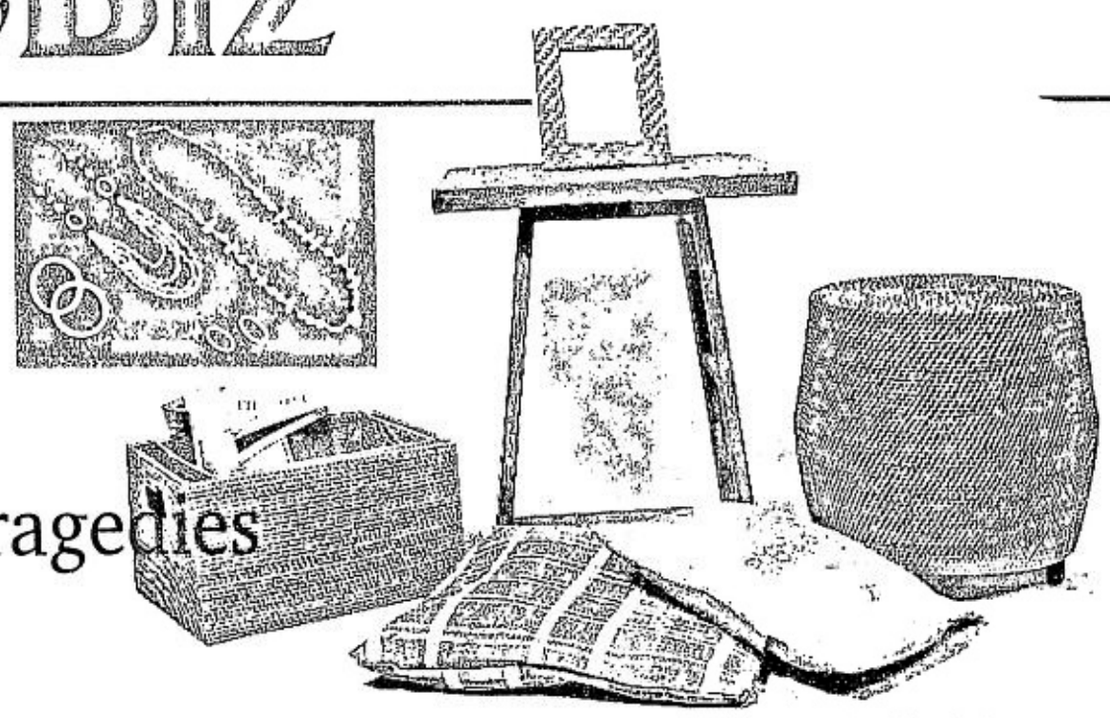
○ GRAN SEVILLE ○ CHESTER PLACE
○ CRYSTAL PLACE ○ NORTH OLYMPUS

Neither storm, nor fire stopped this couple

Armed with P5,000 they succeed in handicraft export firm despite tragedies



BASKETWARE a produced by 33 Point 3; (INSET) Fashion jewelry produced by the firm.

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—WHEN husband and wife Jenifer and Maribelle Cruz set up their basketware and fashion accessory business, they never dreamt it would grow into a multi-million dollar operation.

The Cruz couple resigned from their jobs to put up 33 Point 3 Exports in 1990 with only a P5,000 capital. Jenifer was working with a company making basketware while his wife Maribelle worked with a fashion accessory company.

"The 33 refers to my age, the 3 to my three sons and the point is my wife," says Jenifer, 33 Point 3 general manager. "We had four or five workers, plus me and my wife."

Today, the company employs 70 regular workers and over 100 casual employees. In addition, 33 Point 3 provides livelihood to more than 3,000 families in 15 municipalities in Bohol and another 1,000 families in Cebu.

Cruz says these families, who serve as their subcontractors, used to earn about P500 a week. "Now, they earn three times more weaving baskets and other handicraft for us," he adds.

THE FIRMS provides livelihood to more than 4,000 families

The company's sales used to average only $300,000 a year, now earns as much as $3 million, Cruz adds.

While they may have started with a small capital, the Cruz couple relied on the goodwill they developed with buyers and suppliers, whom they met when they were still employees, to set up the company as well as on the knowledge they gained from their previous employment.

Just like any other entrepreneurs, the Cruz couple went through a lot of difficulties before their business succeeded.

A little over a month after they started operations in October 1990, typhoon Ruping hit Cebu and wiped out their makeshift warehouse. Instead of being discouraged, the couple rented a space to serve as their production area.

The company started as a subcontractor for Taiwanese businessman George Tsai.

"We only have four or five workers so my wife and I worked on all aspects of the business—from painting to varnishing. I even helped carry our products to the container van," Cruz says.

Then, in 1997, the Asian financial crisis made sourcing of funds a little difficult although their banks just reduced their credit line. "We were fortunate because our banks did not cut off our credit line," Cruz says.

Two years later, a fire razed the 33 Point 3 plant. "Everything was burned down. We started again with zero," he recalls.

According to Cruz, there were even times when they did not know where to get the money for the family's needs such as milk for their children. "But the money always came," he says.

Their efforts paid off and in 2000, they acquired a property in Mandaue City, constructed the building in 2002 and moved to the new office and factory in 2003.

The company also gained recognition when they received the Golden Shell Award for Excellence in Manufacturing and Marketing in Dec. 13, 2004 at the awarding ceremony held at Malacañang.

Although the company is now generating millions of dollars in sales, he notes that they have to be on their toes since they are facing rising competition from China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia.

However, Cruz says that they are taking all these challenges in stride, adding that they are used to working hard for their company.

He attributes their success to their determination, guts, courage and humility.

"We were 11 in the family. Being poor is not a hindrance (to success)," Cruz says.

Thankful for the blessings they received, the couple are involved in community projects in Antequera town in Bohol, where majority of their subcontractors are based. Cruz says they have donated two high school classrooms and one faculty room to the Kanlaas Barangay High School as well as spent for the improvement of some portions of the Holy Rosary Parish Church. They are also constructing a basketball court in the municipality.

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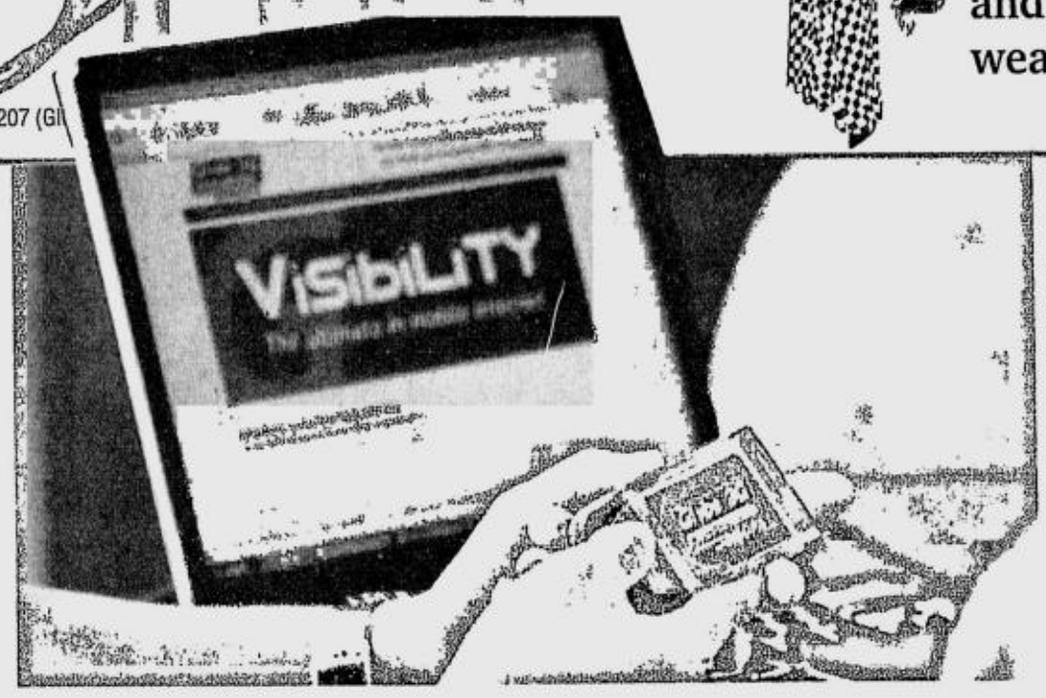
Sea Princess and stormy weather /E2

Versatility, visibility and infinity

It's like being in a 'hotspot' anywhere you go; better still, Globe's wireless unlimited connectivity to the Internet is now open to individual subscribers



THOUGH couched in tongue-twisting acronyms, Globe Visibility's capabilities can be summed up as connectivity anytime, anywhere.

By Linda B. Bolido

IS THERE AN E-MAIL THAT you have to send ASAP or get right away?

You do not have to zip back to your office or your home or bite your nails in anxiety till they bleed as you sit in an unmoving vehicle stuck in a monstrous traffic jam.

Whether you are a high-powered businessman keeping track of numerous investments or simply a multitasking individual who feels antsy wasting even a single minute of your time, you can now get a lot of things done practically wherever you are.

With Globe Visibility, you can be "seen" figuratively and even literally—if you have a webcam. As long as you have your laptop with you, you can get connected and access the Internet almost anywhere and practically anyway you want to link up to the web.

PATRICIO Pineda III

Perhaps only the risk of having your computer snatched from you if you try using it on a sidewalk or a public utility vehicle can limit your "visibility."

Globe Visibility is an unlimited mobile Internet plan that gives you access wherever you are. There is almost no need to look for hotspots, or areas where you can get wireless connection.

And you don't have to count minutes.

If you sign up now, and until Oct. 10, you can avail of the initial promo offer of unlimited access for P2,000 a month. An additional P2,000 one-time activation/setup fee will be charged to cover provisioning, administrative and other startup costs.

What you get with Globe Visibiility is unlimited HSDPA/3G/EDGE/GPRS, as well as unlimited Wi-Fi and dial-up.

Don't let the tongue-twisting acronyms daunt you. It simply means you can get fast or slow connection how ever the spirit moves you.

With a wide range of connectivity available, Globe could just as easily have called their new product Versatility.

But just to give you an idea why Globe thinks Visibility gives them bragging rights over other networks, HSDPA stands for High Speed Downlink Packet Access or "Super 3G" or "3.5G." It boosts current 3G capabilities "by allowing faster data transfer speeds and Internet browsing... up to five times faster."

HSDPA lets you browse at speeds of up to 1.4 Mbps (megabits/second). Peak rate can be as fast as 1.8 Mbps. Ordinary 3G only reaches a speed of 384 kbps (kilobits/second).

Pacesetter

More than that, as Patricio "Blum" Pineda III, vice president for wireless business planning and strategy, said, "To our knowledge, we (Globe) have possibly enabled the Philippines to be the first to showcase this hypercharged HSDPA or so-called Super 3G at these peak speeds in the region."

Globe says it is the first to launch commercial HSDPA service in Asia and the Pacific. Around the world, less than 20 countries offer the service at the moment.

As for the other acronyms involved in the Visibility packet, EDGE means Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution, GPRS is General Packet Radio Service, and Wi-Fi is wireless fidelity.

What it all means is, you can have Internet access any which way you want, all bundled up in Globe Visibility.

Although the current generation of cellular phones are still not configured to avail of HSDPA technology, mobile computer users who rarely go anywhere without a laptop can now enjoy this cutting-edge technology.

When you sign up for Globe Visibility, you get a mobile browsing data card and data SIM (subscriber's information module) for free.

You do not have to be a Globe subscriber or to have a Globe landline at home to avail of the service, as it is not dependent on your existing telephone connection.

But you will have to use the service for a minimum of 24 months, beginning from the date of data SIM activation, before you can have it deactivated.

Visit any Globe Hub or business center or call 7301000 or, if you are a Globe Handyphone user, 211 from your mobile.

May nananalo oras-oras, 24 oras ng Sony Ericsson Walkman™ Phone! Nanalo ka na ba?

September 15, 2006
Glicerio Solhtano, Pasig, 9:01 pm
Peachy C. Gutierrez, Quezon City, 10:01pm
Rizelle Monteleycia, Taguig City, 11:01pm

September 16, 2006
Dada de la Rea, Las Pinas, 12:01am
Giovanni Masangcay, Baguio City, 1:01am
Melchor Perez, Tondo, 2:01am
Arlan P. Balauag, Quezon City, 3:01am
Milagros Antioquia, Laguna, 4:01am
Joan Dades, Cavite, 5:01am
Carmelino Modequillo, Caloocan City, 6:01am
Yolanda Sison, Laguna, 7:01 am
Paul James, Bohol, 8:01am
Randy Balaba, Butuan City, 9:01am
Jan Benry Tan, General Santos City, 10:01am
Jed Ledesma, Antique, 11:01am
Ma. Leonor M. Santos, Quezon City, 12:01pm
Elvin Ritardo, Bukidnon, 1:01pm
Jose M. Alacig Jr., Laoag, 2:01pm
Maribel D. Buaron, Negros Occidental, 3:01pm
Flora Cristina A. Sison, Las Pinas, 4:01pm
Ryan Jay P. Ramos, Taguig, 5:01pm
Cely Nita Ranada, Laoag, 6:01pm
Elvin Camposagrado, Cavite, 7:01pm
Great Son Woolon, Zamboanga, 8:01pm
Maria Erla Esperancilla, Puerto Princesa, 9:01pm
Rommel Jamena, Quezon City, 10:01pm
Maribeth Tamanian, Cavite, 11:01pm

September 17, 2006
Silverio R. Ordonez Jr., Quezon City, 12:01am
Mark Winston Villanueva, Davao City, 1:01am
Herbert Geraldo C. Garcia, Quezon City, 2:01am
Jason G. Delfin, Pasay City, 3:01am
Edwin Gancusi, Makati City, 4:01am
Iluminada Julie Gokong, Cagayan de Oro, 5:01am
Cesar Abendano, Misamis Oriental, 6:01am
Jocelyn Olimon, Santiago City, 7:01am
Argy Marquez, Pangasinan, 8:01am
Rommel Y. Angeles, Tarlac, 9:01am
Gil Apolinario, Leyte, 10:01am
Rio Lagayada, Paranaque, 11:01am
Riza Laceina, Southern Leyte, 12:01pm
Josenelimbas M. Libuton, Aklan, 1:01pm
Renante Manikmot, La Union, 2:01pm
Melanie S. Azcueta, Ilocos Sur, 3:01pm
Mana Ines Perante, Santiago City, 4:01pm
Kyti S. Trinidad, Malabon City, 5:01pm
Danilo Siaboc, Bulacan, 6:01pm
Lynnette C. Lumayag, Mandaue City, 7:01pm
Rosally Dela Cruz, Bulacan, 8:01pm
Eduardo Bobiles, Batangas, 9:01pm
Cnsolyn Porta, Sungao del Sur, 10:01pm
Cathenne Jean Banares, Olongapo City, 11:01pm

September 18, 2006
Joshua Dominic G. Badillas, Mandaluyong, 12:01am
Sandra Cu, Tacloban, 1:01am
Patrick P. Dela Peña, Nueva Ecija, 2:01am
Princess Mane Secretana, Cebu City, 3.01am
Neilmar Mole, Southern Leyte, 4:01am
Daryl Sison, Laguna, 5:01am
Gabriel Narciso, Makati City, 6:01am
Jocelyn Olimon, Santiago City, 7:01am
Rodel F. Recto, San Juan City, 8:01am
Alona Reyes, Olongapo City, 9:01am
Mary Marjorie S. Galicia, Cavite, 10:01am
Romil Rabanal, Ilocos Sur, 11:01am
Menchie B. Raper, Cagayan de Oro, 12:01pm
Peter Jorquia, Tagbilaran City, 1:01pm
Michael Manifor, Angeles City, 2:01pm
Mercy C. Bautista, Capiz, 3:01pm
Junrey Genabia, Bohol, 4:01pm
Elpidio J. Escobar, Cabanatuan City, 5:01pm
Donna M. Dormitorio, Mandaluyong City, 6:01pm
Stepanie Magno, Davao City, 7:01pm
Sheena Bacero, Iloilo City, 8:01pm
Leo-Antonio O. Lapitan, Laguna, 9:01pm
Jeanette C. Gomez, Bulacan, 10:01pm
Anne Valerie Q. Perez, Danao City, 11:01pm

September 19, 2006
Felicidad T. Antonio, Quezon City, 12:01am
Ymayet Ilustrisimo, Cebu City, 1:01am
Constantino L. Mercado Jr., Muntinlupa, 2:01am
Joji T. Alagos, Caloocan City, 3:01am
Dennis Dela Cruz, Manila, 4:01am
Stephen Reyes, Las Pinas, 5:01am
Mary Joy Gayotan, Quezon City, 6:01am
Weller Nitcha, Ilocos Sur, 7:01am
Rosalie S. Aragones, Laguna, 8:01am
Mana Yhonna Kwan, Cagayan de Oro, 9:01am
Almera Delima, Tacloban City, 10:01am
Lowie Chan, Leyte, 11:01am
Mannix Fuentes, Negros Occidental, 12:01pm
Rodor Bose, Masbate, 1:01pm
Numeriano Alcantara, Cabanatuan City, 2:01pm
JunJun Polaez Arciaga, Pangasinan, 3:01pm
Susan Ayen, Naga City, 4:01pm
Christian San Diego, Camarines Sur, 5:01pm
Jeser R. Unajan, Bohol, 6:01pm
Nonieto Mendoza, Lucena, 7:01pm
Marlon Baguio, Bacolod City, 8:01pm
Nasher A. Jikiri, Zamboanga, 9:01pm
Ivan Joseph Potestades, Metro Manila, 10:01pm
Cheryl C. Principe, Lipa City, 11:01pm

September 20, 2006
Jennielyn R. Figueroa, Cavite, 12:01am
Phebe Taquiso, Laguna, 1:01am
Jason Suratos, Quezon City, 2:01am
Gorio Gil, Pangasinan, 3:01am
Jesse Joey Tagud, Compostela Valley, 4:01am
Ramil Paraiso, Metro Manila, 5:01am
Thelma Jarapa, Quezon City, 6:01am
Jealyn L. Tembrevilla, Negros Occidental, 7:01am
Diana Rose Luna, Misamis Oriental, 8:01am
Joyce Manansala, Batangas City, 9:01am
Michael Robert Frias Manikan, Parañaque, 10:01am
Gilbert Jirado, Davao City, 11:01am
Rizza Juliano, Cebu, 12:01pm
Andy B. Cruz, Pasig City, 1:01pm
Edward Peña, Bulacan, 2:01pm
Arjay Malonosan, Pasay City, 3:01pm
Rhea Gumacal, Iloilo, 4:01pm
Luisa Aspa, Dagupan City, 5:01pm
Catherine D. Aroban, Metro Manila, 6:01pm
Rowena S. Sanchez, Mandaue City, 7:01pm
Roniel Manimtim, Cavite, 8:01pm
Rolando Nabuya, Davao City, 9:01pm
Bernard Cumiat, Ilocos Norte, 10:01pm
Mohanden Pagabangan, Taguig City, 11:01pm

September 21, 2006
Ferdinand Asiunano, Quezon City, 12:01am
Michael Caezar Neyra, Metro Manila, 1:01am
Anna Rowena L. Moldes, Southern Leyte, 2:01am
Michael F. Modrigo, Caloocan City, 3:01am
Eleonor A. Villaflor, Cavite, 4:01am
Kent Benedict Capatan, Cebu, 5.01am
Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato, 6:01am
Jerome Lim, Malabon, 7:01am
Renato D. Cambe, Pasig City, 8:01am
Jennifer P. Gonzales, Nueva Vizcaya, 9:01am
Mane Grace Rosales, Samar, 10:01am
Ian Dela Cruz, Davao City, 11:01am
John Michael A. Durato, Misamis Oriental, 12:01pm
Lame M. Cabrera, Leyte, 1:01pm
Elma Betonio, Leyte, 2:01pm
Enc Quismundo, Cagayan de Oro, 3:01pm
Nonie Dimalibot, Quezon, 4.01pm
Ronaldo G. Miniay, Malabon City, 5:01pm
Bernadette Gorospe, Tarlac Balaoang, 6:01pm
Princess Fhaye Parungao, Las Pinas, 7.01pm
Gene Luise H. Tajanlangit, Negros Occ., 8:01pm
Jaime D. De Leon Jr., Laoag City, 9:01pm
Kandi Mercado, Gingoog City, 10:01pm
Marilyn Desuyo, Muntinlupa, 11:01pm

September 22, 2006
Jenica Wakui, Cainta, 12:01am
Melody Masa, Aklan, 1:01am
Enc T. Dela Fuente, Pampanga, 2:01am,
Leevan G. Algaga, Iloilo, 3:01am
Michelle Paez, Pasig, 4.01am
Vivencio Lubrin, La Union, 5:01am
Jennilyn Ludovice, Albay, 6:01am
Philip Pantoja, Bukidnon, 7:01am
Rhaffy B. Borbe, Tabaco City, 8:01am
Theresa D. Gemenuano, Dagupan, 9:01am
Rona Alvarez, Batangas, 10:01am
Elmeno D. Narciso, Southern Davao, 11:01am
Sally Belle Domingo, Caloocan City, 12:01pm
Melanie Ty, Makati, 1:01pm
Aubrey Rose A. Broce, Iloilo, 2:01pm
Mano Ganal, Bacolod City, 3:01pm
Evanie Cagang, Laguna, 4:01pm
Necitas Abapo, Manila, 5:01pm
Mary Rose Magleo, Makati, 6:01pm
Rhoda Cortez, Ilocos Sur, 7:01pm
Liza Binngino, Paranaque City, 8:01pm
Jesus Bautista, Pangasinan, 9:01pm
Joseph De La Rosa, Manila, 10:01pm
Trini Perez, Tondo, 11:01pm

September 23, 2006
Vanessa Marie Espino, Davao City, 12:01am
Felix Espuntu, Las Piñas, 1:01am
Mark Lester Lagumen, Laguna, 2:01am
Prudencio O. Mopon Jr., Cebu City, 3:01am
Michelle Paez, Pasig City, 4:01am
Panfilo Moldes Jr., Leyte, 5:01am
Noel B. Tiglao, Bataan, 6:01am
Gerson Penaranda, Camarines Sur, 7:01am
Alfonso Sison Jr., Laguna, 8.01am
Quirio Palar, Lanao Del Norte, 9:01am
Rocelli C. Facunib, Tacurong City, 10:01am
Ellen Oblimar, Bukidnon, 11:01am
Christian Celestino, Rizal, 12:01pm
Jesamie Jagmoc, Cagayan de Oro, 1:01pm
Mary Grace Bobio, Pasig City, 2:01pm
Sersio P. Bordios, Davao City, 3:01pm
Robert Diaz, Misamis Occidental, 4:01pm
Ma. Victoria Molina, Valenzuela City, 5:01pm
Rexie G. Flores, Ilocos Sur, 6.01pm
Aimee F. Castillo, Caloocan City, 7:01pm
Angelie U. Dela Cruz, Quezon City, 8.01pm
Eleonor A. Villaflor, Cavite, 9:01pm
Kristine Dimaano, Manila, 10:01pm
Cheryl Luzano, Cavite, 11:01pm

September 24, 2006
Ma. Denise D. Almuete, Baguio City, 12:01am
Dino Arsilla, Catanduanes, 1:01am
Jennifer T. Lopez, Cabanatuan City, 2:01am
Moises T. Carpio, Quezon City, 3:01am
Michael S. Saoi, Palawan, 4.01am
Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato, 5:01am
Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato, 6:01am
Robert Doria, Davao City, 7:01am
Bernadette N. Castro, Nueva Ecija, 8:01am
Adrian Gutierez, Las Piñas, 9:01am
Ed Josue Establecida, Quezon, 10:01am
Eva P. Tan, Zamboanga City, 11:01am
Rhodora Manalansan, Pampanga, 12:01pm
Gessica Dizon, Lapu-Lapu City, 1:01pm
Joseph Jencho S. De Castro, Cavite City, 2:01pm
Cesar Prestousa Jr., Caloocan City, 3:01pm
Bernard Holgado, Ilocos Sur, 4:01pm
Eduardo Oronico, Quezon, 5.01pm
Ramina Mauncio, Cabanatuan City, 6:01pm
Jessica Mangubat, Capiz, 7:01pm
Neiba Ibrahim, Zamboanga City, 8:01pm
Hanna-Mae M. Dagur, Manila, 9:01pm
Edward S. Gloria, Nueva Ecija, 10:01pm
Elenita Belano, Davao City, 11:01pm

September 25, 2006
Engracio P. Garcia, Jr., Las Pinas City, 12:01am
Rodel Daves, Antipolo City, 1.01am
Heclord Dallo, Cavite, 2:01am
Abraham Ang Jr., Manila, 3:01am
Michelle Paez, Pasig City, 4:01am
Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato, 5:01am
Dennis Dela Cruz, Manila, 6:01am
Shekinah Mae Fortuna, Davao City, 7:01am
Eleabaser Elongan, Zamboanga City, 8:01am
Ma. Alona C. Delloro, Naga City, 9:01am
Gemmafry Ursua, Camarines Sur, 10.01am
Rebecca Valdez, Rizal, 11:01am
Liza Baconga, Cagayan de Oro, 12:01pm
Joselito Ayag, Calamba City, 1:01pm
Adonis Bravo, Cavite, 2:01pm
Geraldine Sarmiento, Pampanga, 3:01pm
Ceserio Eglona, Cavite, 4.01pm
Helen Aldea, Paranaque, 5:01pm
Carlo Cadorniga, Manila, 6:01pm
Ryan Lester Tabobo, Pangasinan, 7:01pm
Virginia Theresa V. Caba, Quezon City, 8:01pm
Zarah Jane Lavarez, Manila, 9:01pm
Rina D. Ramilo, Manila, 10:01pm
Annabelle Chavez, Batangas, 11:01pm

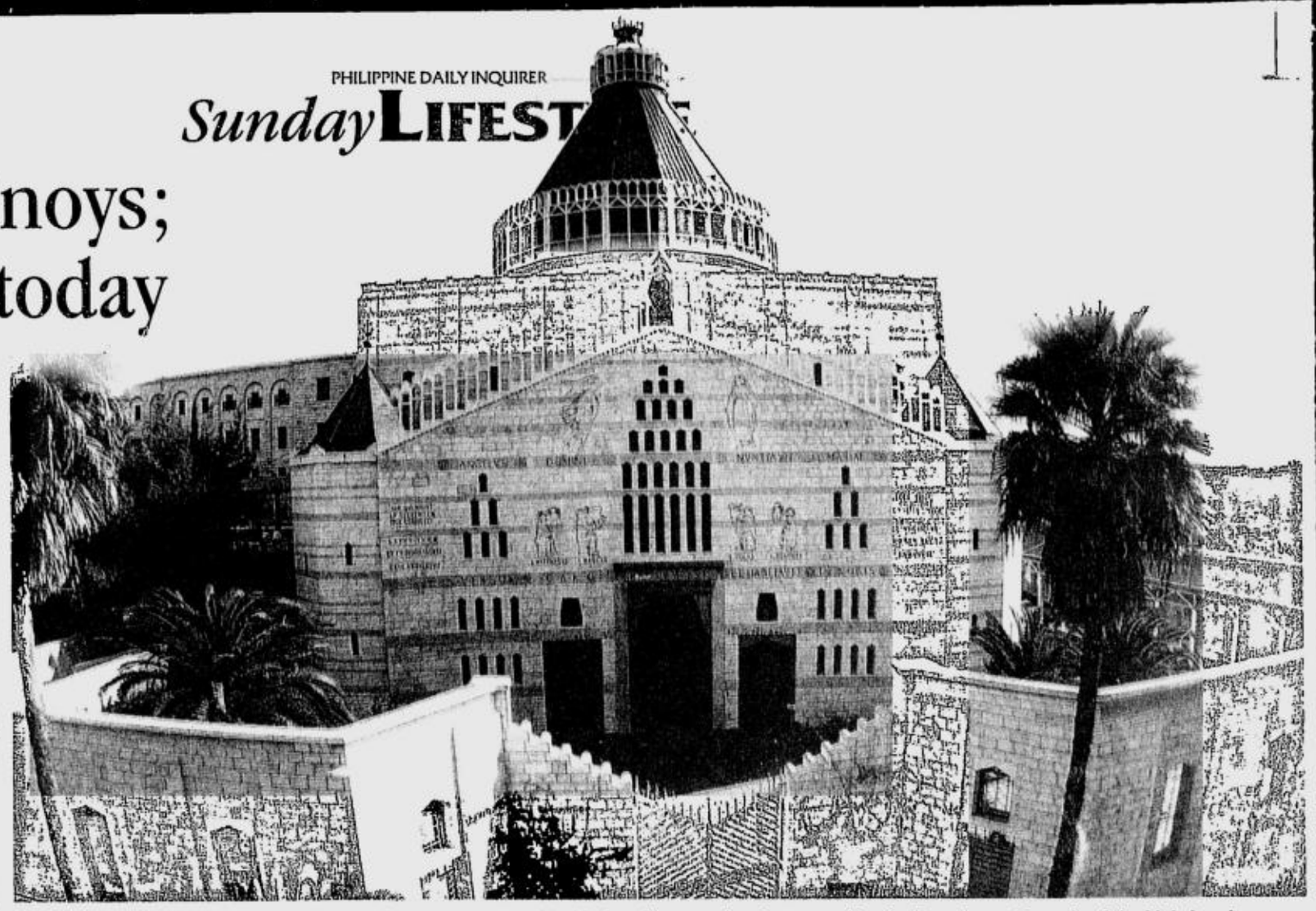
September 26, 2006
Reece Cemine, Butuan City, 12:01am
Miguel Dumayac Jr., Zamboanga del Sur, 1:01am
Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato, 2:01am
Edilbert Basilio, Bataan, 3:01am
Janice Azares, Quezon City, 4:01am
Milagrosa Parayaoan, Mankina City, 5:01am
Michelle Paez, Pasig City, 6:01am
Ina Gayle D.L. Fukuda, Tarlac City, 7:01am
Alberto O. Caraing, Tagum City, 8:01am
Marcelo Agustin, Nueva Ecija, 9:01am
Erwin Ricamonte, Aklan, 10:01am
Ken Iyog, Bulacan, 11:01am
Ryan E. Lampedario, Sultan Kudarat, 12:01pm
Aurelio de Leon, Gen. Santos City, 1:01pm
Jojer Laurente, Butuan City, 2:01pm
Jimmy Ty, Iloilo City, 3:01pm
Rolando L. Tiu, Bulacan, 4:01pm
Robert Gil Avio, Quezon, 5:01pm
Donata L. Santos, Bulacan, 6:01pm
Melinda S. Bacolanon, Butuan City, 7:01pm
Bianca Camille Pagado, Manila, 8.01pm
Winnie Chan, Manila, 9:01pm
Teresita P. Chua, Quezon City, 10:01pm
Melly Marquez, Cebu City, 11:01pm

September 27, 2006
Cyriel Grace Quanico, Roxas City, 12:01am
Michele Reyes, Makati City, 1:01am
Aurelio Tocmo Sr., Maasin City, 2:01am
Rowena Macavena, Laguna, 3:01am
Bambi Narciso, Makati City, 4:01am
Yzel Baconguis, Cagayan de Oro City, 5:01am
Michael Arevalo, Naga City, 6:01am
Letlet Matalauan, Batangas, 7:01am
Ermonyne Teñosa, Negros Occidental, 8:01am
Ernie F. Bulilan, Davao City, 9:01am
Johnmark Babaan, Paranaque City, 10:01am
Jomel N. Salvedia, Ilocos Norte, 11:01am
Glyza Divino, Leyte, 12:01pm
Pepito Bagono, Cavite, 1.01pm
Ma. Tarhata Solman, Pangasinan, 2:01pm
Doris Aguirre, Zamboanga City, 3.01pm
Rochelle A. Piedad, Ilocos Norte, 4:01pm
Manjoy Cuaresma, Makati City, 5:01pm
Armando Aquino, Pampanga, 6.01pm
Sandro D. Aguilor, Cagayan de Oro, 7.01pm
Joann Magdalaga, Tacurong City, 8:01pm
Manvic Cruz, Bulacan, 9:01pm
Michael Dy, Paranaque City, 10:01pm
Roldan R. Marzan, Ilocos Norte, 11:01pm

* All subject to final verification and confirmation.

Promo ends Oct.15, 8pm. Per DOH-BFAD No. 0585 Series of 2006

Israel invites Pinoys; Manaoag feast today



BASILICA of the Annunciation in Nazareth was consecrated in 1969 and is owned and operated by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

NISSIM BEN ATAR, general manager of El Al Israel Airlines in Asia and Oceania, declared that Israel was safe and tourists and pilgrims continued to arrive even during the war with the Hezbollah.

Ben Atar, who was born in Beersheba, said Christians from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia were among two million tourists who traveled to Israel annually. Even during the war when the Hezbollah attacked the northern part of Israel, the tourists did not stop coming.

"The people of Israel are a loving people," Ben Atar said. He has traveled to all parts of Israel and seen how beautiful his country is.

The war did not touch Jerusalem, only 35 minutes from Tel Aviv. Jerusalem is the center of pilgrimages. Pilgrims can retrace Jesus' steps to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the Church of All Nations. They can also drive across the Kidron Valley.

They enter the Old City through Stephen's Gate and find themselves in the Christian quarter where they can visit the beautiful Church of St. Anne and the Pools of Bethesda, see Pilate's Judgement Hall and walk along the Via Dolorosa and make the Way of the Cross.

Ben Atar said: "As general manager of El Al, I am also a representative of Israel. I invite all Filipinos to visit Israel. The people in Israel are peace-loving and friendly like in the Philippines. Whenever I come here, I feel like I am at home. The people are like us—we love music, love to dance... I think Israel will make [Filipinos] feel at home, too."

Pilgrims from the Philippines stopped going to Israel during the war, but now that there is a cease-fire, Ephesus Travel and other travel agencies are organizing trips again. Fr. Larry Faraon is set to lead a group on Nov. 6. Text 0917-8938267.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Our Lady of Manaoag

Today is the feast day of the much venerated and highly miraculous image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag in Pangasinan.

Since Sept. 22, the famous Dominican shrine has been holding a rosary-novena in honor of Our Lady. Dominican fathers from all over the country and several priests from the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan have been celebrating Mass in the shrine.

Today, after the Mass at 4 p.m., a grand procession will take place in which the blessed image will be brought around the town to bless residents and pilgrims.

"We need her benediction since Filipinos are going through tough times," said Fr. Patricio Apa, OP, prior of the Dominican convent of Manaoag. "We need the renewal of the spirit, and this renewal comes from praying and meditating the mysteries of the Rosary of Our Lady."

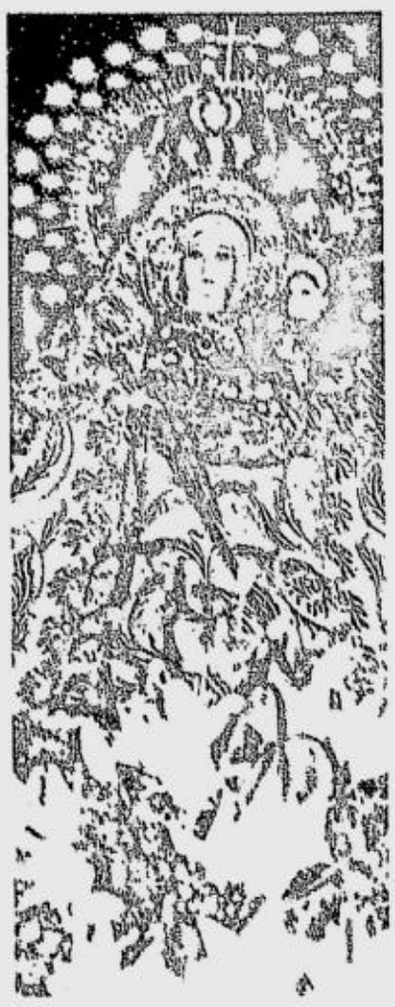
Fiesta

On Oct. 4, Gen. Trias will celebrate its fiesta in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. It is the only parish in Cavite dedicated to St. Francis.

Most Rev. Luis Antonio G. Tagle, DD, bishop of Imus, said the first novena Mass last Sept. 25. An exhibit of different Franciscan saints and the life of St. Francis opened on the first floor of the *convento*.

Today, there will be a blessing of animals because St. Francis is the patron of animals. A grand *caracol* will be held at 1 p.m., Oct. 2.

On the day of the fiesta, there will be Masses every hour. The concelebrated Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. The fiesta will end with a solemn procession after the 6 p.m. Mass on Oct. 5. Ten images of Franciscan saints will accompany St. Francis during the procession.



MIRACULOUS image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag

Originally, the town was known as Hacienda de San Francisco de Malabon, owned by a Spanish condesa, *Doña* Maria Josefa de Yrrizarri y Ursua, *condesa de* Lizarraga. The *hacienda* became an independent town in 1748.

The name San Francisco was in honor of the patron saint, while Malabon came from the fact that *labong* was abundant, *malabong*. Since the Spaniards could not pronounce the *ng*, it became Malabon.

The *condesa* was a niece of Don Martin de Ursua y Arismendi, governor general of the Philippines in 1709-1714. He was the first *conde de* Lizarraga. Upon his death, his only son Don Joaquin Francisco Javier de Ursua became the second *conde*, but he died without an heir. *Doña* Maria Josefa, his nearest kin, became the third holder of the title.

Doña Maria lived a very sad and tragic life. She married thrice and was widowed the same number of times. Her two children by her first marriage also died. She got into trouble with the friars because she wanted a Filipino secular priest to be parish priest of the church she built.

When she contracted leprosy, her friends and other associates turned their backs on her. She devoted her remaining days to religion and the people of the *hacienda*. In 1782, she died and was interred in the church she built.

NISSIM Ben Atar, general manager of El Al Airlines for Asia and Oceania

The tomb of the Spanish *condesa* is near the entrance to the church. Fr. Vir Mendoza, present parish priest, told me the *condesa* was known to haunt the *convento*.

St. Therese's day

The town of Ramos, Tarlac celebrates today the feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus with a concelebrated Mass at 10 a.m., to be officiated by Bishop Florentino Cinenze of Tarlac. Other Masses are at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The Shrine of St. Therese is under the care of the Servants of the Risen Christ MoiCommunit headed by Fr. Ronald Thomas Cortez as parish priest and Fr. Mark Mary Raphael Castro as vicar and administrator. Text 0916-7044610.

Fundraising run

"Takbo, breast friends 2006," a fundraising run, begins at 5:30 a.m., Oct. 8, from the Quirino Grandstand. It is organized by the Soroptimist International of Ortigas and Environs. Proceeds will be used to provide free chemotherapy to poor breast cancer patients. At least 14 women have been helped. A free breast clinic is being set up.

Please help by paying P150 when you register at 5 a.m. Call 7212398 or text 0917-8138149. For pre-registration, call 5276376 or 5276378.

Vigil

The Eucharistic Adorers League will hold again a vigil before the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m., Oct. 5, followed by a Holy Mass at the Pink Sisters Convent on Hemady Road, New Manila. The group is now preparing for its national convention on Dec. 2.

The Beacon School

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The Beacon School Scholarship Programme
2007-2008 School Year

The Beacon School is offering two full scholarships, for entry to Grade Six for the 2007-2008 school year.

Successful candidates will need to demonstrate a strong academic background, as well as the ability to think critically and creatively. The ability to make a positive contribution to the Beacon School community is also required. The family of the successful candidate will be required to demonstrate a need for financial assistance.

Following receipt of applications, candidates will be shortlisted and a number will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee, and by school academic personnel. This will include academic testing. As well, parents of shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

Applications, including a letter of application, a brief resume, and latest school academic records, should be sent, in an envelope marked "Scholarship Application", to: The Headmaster, The Beacon School, PCPD Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Taguig.

Applications will close at 3:00 p.m. on Monday 23 October 2006.

GAUDENCIO Cardinal Rosales at the dedication of St. Bartholomew Church

Fundraising concert set for Oct. 6

THE BAHAY NG DIYOS FOUNDATION will hold a fundraising concert, "Voices," at the Fiesta Pavilion Grand Ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

Featured performers are Dulce, Isay Alvarez, Ivy Violan and Robert Seña.

The foundation, an initiative of Noemi Lirag-Saludo, aims to harness financial, material and human resources for the refurbishing of churches and their liturgical facilities all over the country.

Earlier, the foundation spearheaded the rehabilitation of the 114-year-old St. Bartholomew Church in San Manuel, Pangasinan.

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, archbishop of Manila, officiated in the dedication ceremony.

The concert is made possible by the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc. as presentor and Splash Foundation as co-presentor. Other sponsors are Philippine Fuhua Sterling Agricultural Technology Development Corp., Port Users Confederation, Inc., UEM-Mara Philippines Corp., Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, MC Home Depot and The Manila Times.

Call 5314701 to 04 local 120 and 102; or 5311182, 0917-8437394 and 0917-5339685.

TOP VIEW of the church during the dedication ceremony

NOEMI Saludo, Bahay Ng Diyos Foundation president

Talk of marriage annoys boyfriend

DEAR EMILY,

I'm 26 years old. My boyfriend and I have been together since 2004. We broke up last year but made up again this year. He's a businessman and travels all the time.

My problem is that he gets irritated when I begin to talk about marriage. I don't know where I stand. Will he marry me in the future or am I just hanging on to this relationship?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

I'm trying to understand the nature of his business and his situation because I love him dearly. Sometimes he thinks I am just after his money and possessions. But I had told him I was willing to sign a prenuptial agreement just to prove that I truly loved him and not his money.

How can I change his mind about marriage? I had told him that I wanted to have a baby with him and he said if I got pregnant, we would get married.

Am I doing the right thing? I don't want to wait forever. I am getting old and want to have my own family in the near future. Should I stay in this kind of relationship or should I end it and open my heart to others?

IRENE

Your letter reeks of desperation and your boyfriend is no help at all in that department. Why should he be irritated when you talk about marriage if you are both available anyway?

But then, why stay together if there is no commitment in sight? Are you just keeping each other company for lack of anything better to do? Doesn't he care for you at all? Is he such a trophy boyfriend that he thinks you're only after his money? Does he think you're so unattractive that it was only he who took notice of you?

Some men are so full of themselves that their whole world revolves solely around their creepy selves. They are insensitive, arrogant and truly—hmmm, never mind!

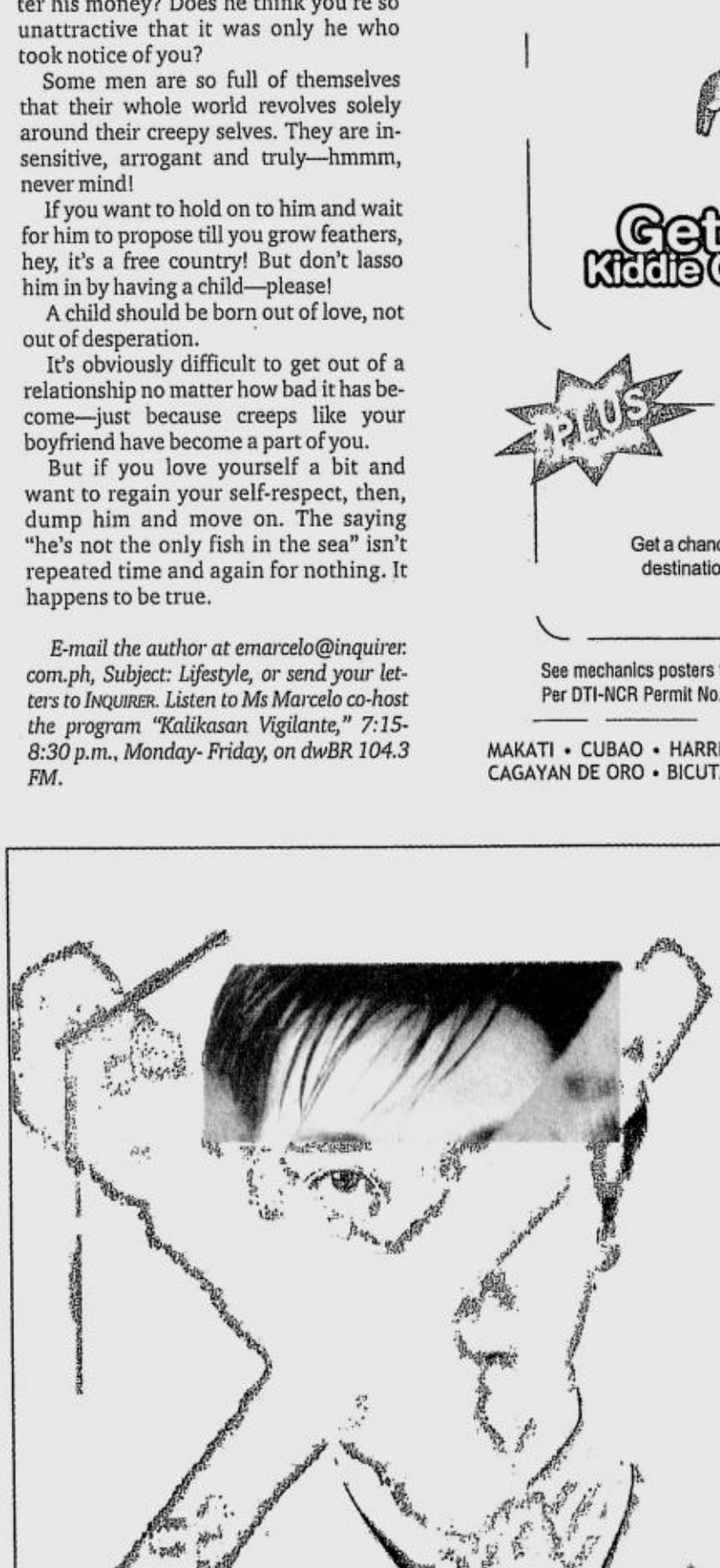
If you want to hold on to him and wait for him to propose till you grow feathers, hey, it's a free country! But don't lasso him in by having a child—please!

A child should be born out of love, not out of desperation.

It's obviously difficult to get out of a relationship no matter how bad it has become—just because creeps like your boyfriend have become a part of you.

But if you love yourself a bit and want to regain your self-respect, then, dump him and move on. The saying "he's not the only fish in the sea" isn't repeated time and again for nothing. It happens to be true.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday- Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2758, Series of 2006

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

LACSAMANA-ALCANTARA

Rolando J. Lacsamana, son of lawyer **Romeo T. Lacsamana** and **Lina de Jose**, will marry **Lida Aura J. Alcantara**, daughter of **Roberto** and **Teresita Alcantara**, Oct. 7 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life in Pasay City. Reception will follow at Villa Immaculada, Intramuros, Manila.

MOJE-AREVALO

Mark Moje and **Ghia Arevalo** were married recently at Caleruega, Nasugbu, Batangas. Reception followed at Ville Sommet, Alfonso, Cavite. The bride's gown was made by **Michelle Lim.**

VILAR-CRUZ

Jose Vicente Vilar wed **Maria Cecilia Cruz** recently at the San Agustin Church. **Danilo Franco** designed the bridal gown.

EUSEBIO ANNIVERSARY

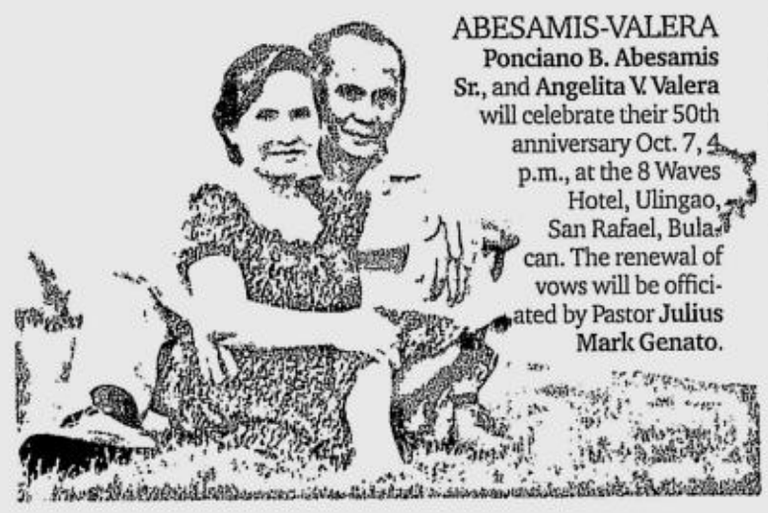
Thedford Eusebio and **Mercy Cruz Eusebio** of Fairfield, California, USA, recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Parañaque. Reception followed at the Coconut Palace. All their children and relatives from California were here to share this blissful occasion. Coordination was by A Magical Event while floral arrangement was done by Thinkerbelles.

MALLARI-CRUZ

Mico Mallari, son of **Antonio** and **Zenaida Mallari**, will wed **Alexandra Cruz**, daughter of **Jaime** and **Baby Cruz**, Oct. 7 at St. Joseph the Worker Chapel, Clark, Pampanga. Reception will follow at Holiday Inn Resort. The bride will wear a **JC Buendia** creation.

ELORIAGA-SANTIAGO

Gino Eloriaga, son of the late **Alex** and **Cristina Novenario-Eloriaga**, and **Luz Isabel Santiago**, daughter of Dr. **Nestor** and **Luz Santiago**, exchanged vows recently at the Sanctuario de San Antonio. Reception was held at North Forbes Social Hall.



ABESAMIS-VALERA

Ponciano B. Abesamis Sr., and **Angelita V. Valera** will celebrate their 50th anniversary Oct. 7, 4 p.m., at the 8 Waves Hotel, Ulingao, San Rafael, Bulacan. The renewal of vows will be officiated by Pastor **Julius Mark Genato.**

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DAGUPAN CITY	OCTOBER 15, 2006	21K Half Marathon	6:00 AM
Contact Person	Ms. Tess Bernardino	3K Kiddie Run & 5K Fun Run	6:00 AM
	CSI City Mall, Lucao District		
	(075) 522-3291 / 662-2348		
TACLOBAN CITY	OCTOBER 22, 2006	REGISTRATION FEES	
Contact Person	Mr. Neil Baronda	3K Kiddie Run	P 30.00
	Provincial Engineers Office	5K Fun Run	P 40.00
	Provincial Capitol Compound	21K Half Marathon	P 100.00
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HISTORY will unfold once more as Beijing hosts for the first time the Summer Olympics in 2008.

Right in the midst of the Middle Kingdom

Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora

Now is as good a time as any to visit Beijing as she revs up for the 2008 Summer Olympics

THE SEA OF CARS, YAWNING highways and vertical superstructures belie the glorious past of this Chinese city. But trek through the ancient quarters and one is transported to the mystical charm of fable, folklore, centuries-old rumors, empires and emperors. This is, after all, the land where the sound of the footsteps you leave behind echoes with the fervid voices of the past.

Since Beijing is set to host the 2008 Summer Olympics, tourism has never been better. The Philippine Airlines has so far transported more than 25,000 passengers to the city since it resumed its direct flight last November. Starting with three-times-a-week frequency (Tuesday, Friday, Sunday), the service has since added another flight (Thursday), and is looking forward to making the service a daily one.

Since PAL Mabuhay Miles has an excellent lineup of partner hotels, such as the Marco Polo Hotels, visiting Beijing is now a breeze more than ever for the Pinoy traveler.

The Marco Polo Hotel in Xidan, for instance, is a mere three blocks away from Tiananmen Square and the Great Hall of People. From the Square, one can take off to the Mao Zedong Mausoleum, the Forbidden City and other interesting destinations of the imperial city.

For shopaholics, the hotel is just a walking distance away from the Xidan market where there's a bargain sale every day.

But when in Beijing, however, one should never miss out on three *de rigueur* experiences: a gastronomic feast of the noble dish, Peking Duck, an enchanting walk through the Forbidden City, and an arduous climb of the Great Wall of China for the workout of your life, according to PAL district manager-Beijing Ruth Chuaunsu.

Duck dish

First off, the exquisite dish that has for centuries invigorated the senses and beguiled the world over of its exotic allure. The Peking Duck, roasted with its skin so soft but crispy it melts in the mouth, is a delicate craft that requires the exacting skills of a sculptor. In fact, Peking Duck cooking has been an art practiced since the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368).

The Hepingmen Quanjude Roast-Duck Restaurant, while admittedly a tad too touristy, boasts of the largest roast-duck resto in Beijing, if not the world. It has a floor area of 15,000 sq m with 41 dining halls that can accommodate approximately 2,000 diners at a given time. Filled to capacity, it can serve 5,000 meals a day. No waiting in line or making reservations days

RIGHT/ D2

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The school is located in fully air-conditioned premises in the tree-lined grounds of the Philippine Center for Population and Development in Chino Roces (Pasong Tamo) Extension, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Our rich and exciting academic programme is firmly based on the International Baccalaureate Primary Years and Middle Years Programmes. We are fully authorized to offer the IB Primary Years Programme. Currently, we are the only fully authorized school in the Philippines. We are a candidate school seeking authorization for the IB Middle Years Programme. Our academic programmes are recognized by the Department of Education.

Applications for enrolment for the 2007-2008 school year are now being accepted for all grade levels from Pre-School to Grade 8. While space may be available at most grade levels, this may be extremely limited at some levels due to current enrolment. Applications will be received until 15 January 2007, after which date applications will only be received for grade levels in which space is available.

Parents who are interested in seeking enrolment for their children are invited to visit and tour the school. Please contact the school at admissions@beaconschool.ph in order to arrange an appointment, and visit our website at www.beaconschool.ph.

School address	The Beacon School, PCPD Building 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension Taguig, Metro Manila.
Phone Fax	(632) 810-5046; (632) 840-5040 (632) 810-5046; (632) 840-5040
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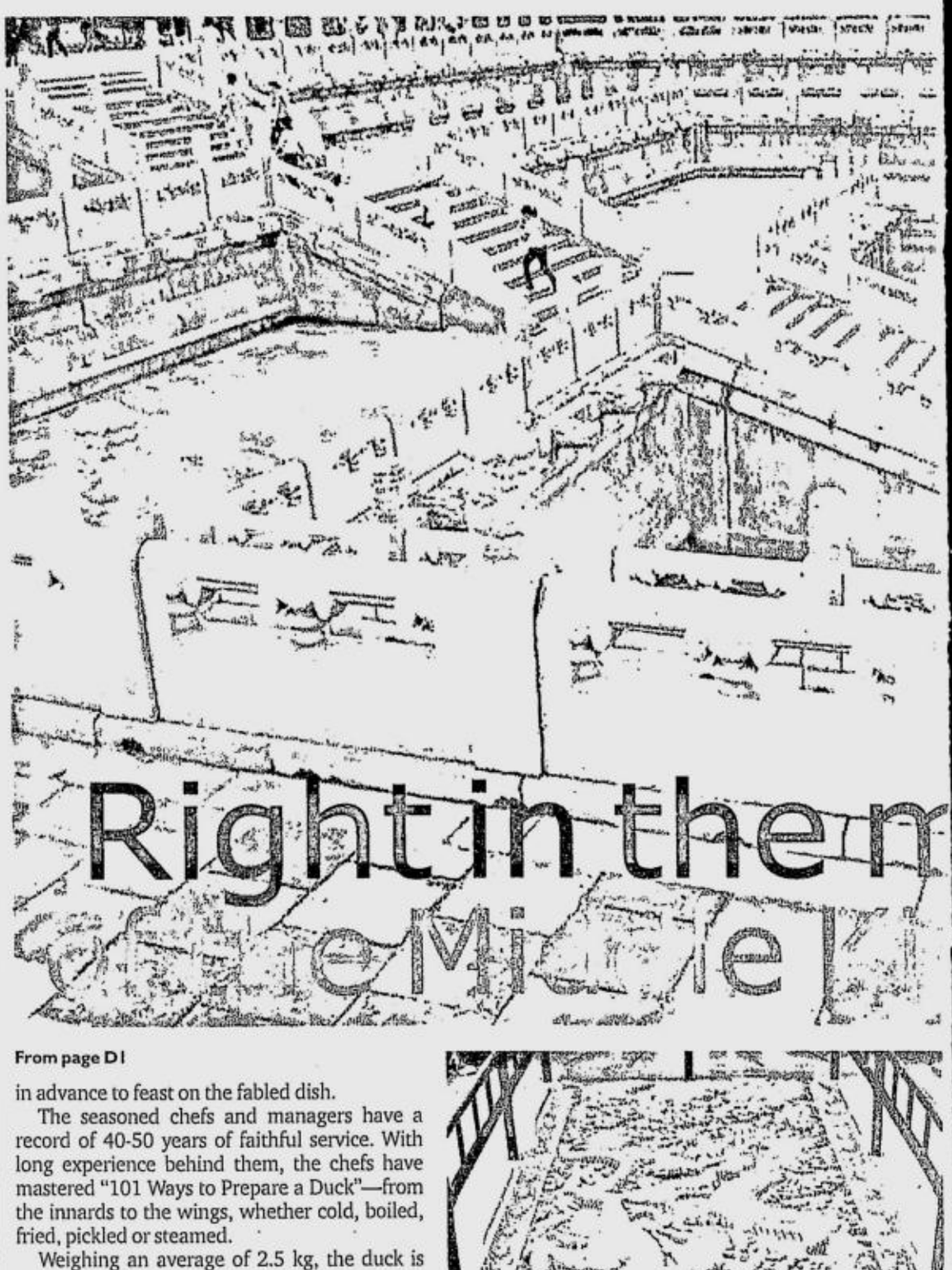


IMPERIAL staircase at the Forbidden City. Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor" was the first feature-length film authorized by the Chinese government to shoot here in 1987.

Right in the em

From page D1

in advance to feast on the fabled dish.

The seasoned chefs and managers have a record of 40-50 years of faithful service. With long experience behind them, the chefs have mastered "101 Ways to Prepare a Duck"—from the innards to the wings, whether cold, boiled, fried, pickled or steamed.

Weighing an average of 2.5 kg, the duck is roasted over fruitwoods such as dates, peach and pear to give the meat its unique aroma; its unbroken skin inflated to a balloon for it to roast just right. A trained chef must be able to slice between 100-120 equal portions of meat and skin in four to five minutes.

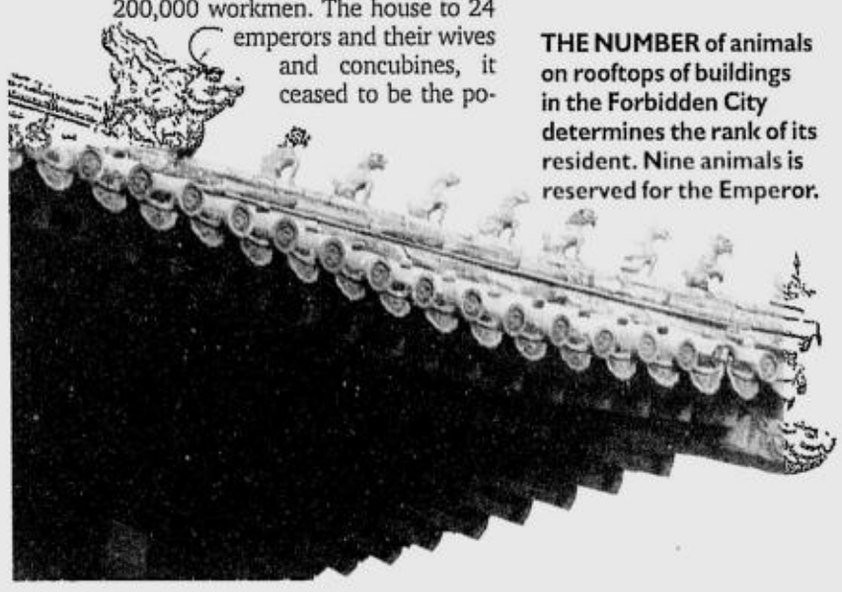
After eating duck, tourists are ready to walk like a duck. And trust us, after eating, you would like to unheave by walking.

Located at the center of the ancient city of Beijing is the sprawling 720,000-sq m Forbidden City, one of the most popular tourist destinations and the largest palace complex in the world.

Rumored to have 9,999.5 rooms, the former home to emperors has on record a total of 8,600. (The Imperial Library has a total of six rooms, a lucky charm against fire since the number 6 is associated with water in astrology. The tiny sixth room was added, and there goes the story of the half room.)

Construction of the Forbidden City took 14 years, beginning in 1406, and took an estimated 200,000 workmen. The house to 24 emperors and their wives and concubines, it ceased to be the po-

THIS intricate carving at the Summer Palace, meant as staircase for the royal, is made from one block of rock.



THE NUMBER of animals on rooftops of buildings in the Forbidden City determines the rank of its resident. Nine animals is reserved for the Emperor.

DRAGON boat transport

TRAVELBRIEFS

New Bangkok airport operational

All Thai Airways International and domestic flights to and from Bangkok are now operating out of the new multimillion-dollar Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Located some 25 kilometers east of Bangkok, the new airport's passenger terminal covers an area of 563,000 square meters. It also features the world's longest runway—75.3m x 4,000m—and the world's tallest control tower at 132.2 m high.

When fully operational, it will be capable of handling 100 million passengers a year. With the new airport, Bangkok expects to become the aviation hub of the region in the next few years. For more information, call the local Thai Airways office at (Makati) 8124744, (Manila) 5280122-25, (Cebu) 032-2322405, or visit www.thaiairways.com.

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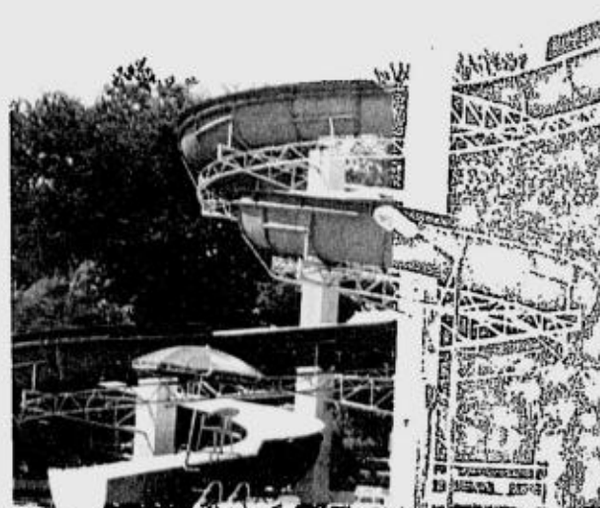

SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR COUPLES, 'BARKA
Club Manila East, a resort in Taytay, Rizal, introduces its "and making it last," especially for married couples and *bo* P3,695, includes overnight accommodations, dinner for t dinner options, all complemented with a bottle of sparkli includes free entrance to Funtasy Lagoon, and unlimited gift from Club Manila East. Massage service may also be a Treat Package is available for P900 per person. This packa includes an overnight stay (minimum of four and maximu Funtasy Lagoon, unlimited use of kayaks, and free (none 2844740, 6582065, or visit www.clubmanilaeast.com.

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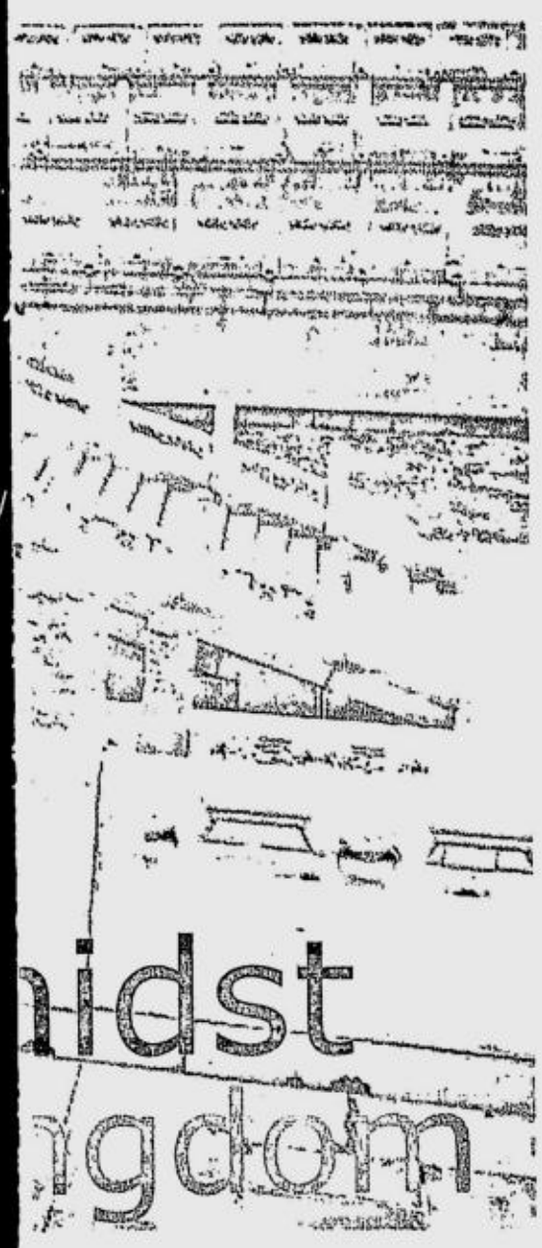
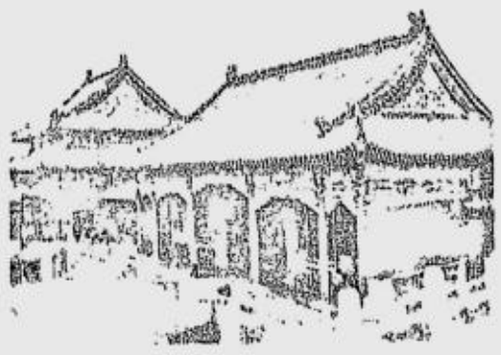


Built from the 7th century BC until the beginning of the 17th century, the wall was a military fortress to protect the Chinese dynasties from the Hunnic, Turkic and Mongol invasions. The Great Wall is also known as the longest cemetery on earth; but no bodies were really buried in the wall since the decomposing bodies would have weakened the structure.

Another myth that has shrouded the Great Wall was that it could be seen from the outer



space. It is said that an emperor once had a vision of creating a monument so magnificent it could be seen from the moon. This claim, however, was disputed by US astronomer Neil Armstrong who said no manmade object can be seen from the moon. (A problem seems to be the wall projecting the same color as the soil surrounding it. Astronauts now claim one has to know where to look in order to see it, although a good pair of binoculars may be needed.)

One has to make a long steep climb on rugged, unequal steps to get a decent view of the Great Wall and its towers. Prepare to pant, gasp, puff, wheeze, sweat and, for some tourists, literally crawl your way up and down with cameras dangling in one arm. But like all things you work hard for, it is truly worth every grueling, laborious step, and all the sinfully delicious Peking Duck you've indulged on the previous day will drip from your body in no time.

FROM LEFT, Mao Zedong's portrait displayed prominently at the Forbidden City; yellow is the royal color, so it dominates all palaces; "Kung Fu," performed by real monks, depicts the history of kung fu in China.

Panda Travel Service Inc. (tel. 2422585) offers one of the most affordable tour packages to Beijing. For just over $500 (excluding tax and visa fee), Filipinos can have a three-night, four-day tour of the city. Fee includes full board, a guide and vehicle, PAL round-trip airfare, and a stay at the Marco Polo Hotel-Xidan.

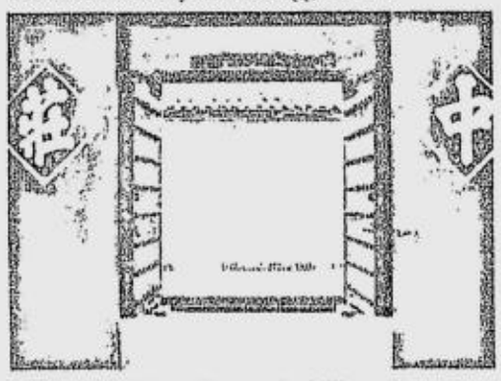
E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

litical center of China in 1912.

A portrait of Mao Zedong is located on the Tiananmen Gate with words: "Long Live the People's Republic of China." The term "long live" used to be reserved only for emperors. The slogan stands for the new era now revered by many locals.

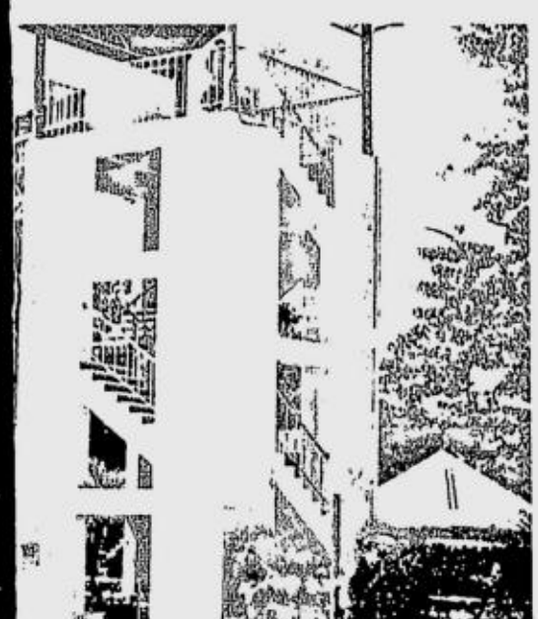
Walk the Wall

An hour's drive from Beijing is the Great Wall of China, stretching more than 6,000 km with an average height of 25 feet. Winding north and northwest of the city, the wall is constructed from masonry, rock and packed earth. Some areas are believed to be cemented with mortars, including a mixture of sticky rice and egg whites.



THE DOORS leading to the Village Center of the Forbidden City

visitors around the Summer Palace.



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GOLDEN BELL
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LOFT DETAILS
MANDAUE FOAM
OLD ASIA
OUR HOME
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HARDWARE
CEBU HOME AND BUILDERS CENTER
CENTRAL LUMBER
MC HOME DEPOT
DEPARTMENT STORE
ALTURAS DEPT STORE
BOHOL QUALITY
DIPOLOG FRIENDLY MART
GAISANO MALL OF DAVAO
GAISANO SOUTH
GLORIA BAZAR
ISLAND CITY MALL
LEE PLAZA HYPERMART
LEE SUPER PLAZA
METRO GAISANO
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SLEDGERS
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THE NORTH FACE
THE TRAVEL CLUB
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OCAMPO'S FINE JEWELLERY
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SWISS GEAR
TIME GEAR
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MARIE FRANCE
METRO LIFESTYLE SPA
SLIMMERS WORLD
SLIMMERS WORLD BODY SPA
SLIMMERS WORLD FACE & SKIN CLINIC
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SPORTS & HOBBY
CHRIS SPORTS
SPORTS CENTRAL
TOBY'S SPORTS
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Citibank rewards like no other!

Country's leading credit card issuer launches yet another exciting promotion, past winners share how rewarding it is to own a Citibank credit card

Elizabeth Yuchioco is clicking away happily with her digital camera courtesy of Citibank.

How would you like to drive a new generation Mercedes-Benz E-Class and cruise the city streets while listening to your favorite tunes with a fully-loaded iPod video? Or maybe jetting to Hong Kong with a loved one and taking photos with a brand new Canon digital camera? Don't forget to call home using a Motorola Razor V3X mobile phone with 3G. Prefer to stay indoors? You'll have more reasons to with a Philips Home Theater, a 43" Sony projection TV and an HP Pavilion Notebook. All these, plus the chance to walk away with P100,000 worth of gift certificates at Mercury Drug and P100,000 shopping credit to your Citibank credit card - yours to spend as you please.

If you're a Citibank cardholder, you just might be on your way to scoring one or all of these fabulous prizes - truly a rewarding experience just by joining Citibank's biggest year-ender promotion.

The country's largest credit card issuer is again offering cardholders their dream prizes with the launch of Citibank Take Ten, its latest promotion featuring premium items and lifestyle perks from some of the world's leading brands. What's more, it gives you more chances of winning with so many ways to earn raffle entries!

"With our latest promotion, we're giving Citibank cardholders and the public more exciting reasons to own and use their Citibank credit cards. Our array of prizes will offer something for everyone - and the chance to win not just one, but 10 premium prizes, who can say no to that?", challenged Bea Tan, Citibank's Vice President for Cards Marketing.

Think you can't possibly win? Think again, as past winners of Citibank's exciting promotions share their good fortune.

Elizabeth Yuchioco of Quezon City simply sent a text message to join a Citibank promotion. A Citibank Gold MasterCard owner, the 36-year-old housewife and mother of three was eyeing to win the Canon digital camera - and that's just what she got. "I was telling myself 'What's there to lose?' so I sent the text message. When I was informed that I won and it was exactly the prize I wanted, I was so excited." Her new Canon digital camera also came with a Canon Pixma Photo Printer which made developing her pictures so much easier and practical.

For ophthalmologist and Citibank Gold VISA cardholder Dr. Edgardo Aguirre of Mandaluyong City, winning the HP Pocket PC gave him a new avenue to discover the wonders of technology. "It's such a convenient tool for people who are always on the go like me. I'm glad I joined Citibank's promotion - the mechanics were so simple and I did not have to fill up raffle coupons and drop in designated boxes. I keyed in a short message and I was entered. Even better, I actually won."

In the case of Lizbeth Laura Del Rosario of Quezon City, joining Citibank's promotion made her dream of owning a luxury car come true! "I've always wanted to feel what it's like to be inside a Mercedes-Benz and when I found out I won, my husband and I were ecstatic. I really joined the promotion because that was the prize and it appealed to me," said the 50-year-old sales employee and Citibank Gold MasterCard holder. "So I when I won, I just couldn't believe it - right up until I was there at the car showroom and collecting my prize. It really pays to join Citibank's promotions!"

Leoncio Gosiaco walked away with 10 grand prizes!

Dr. Aser Acosta, a plastic surgeon from Pasay City and Citibank Gold VISA cardholder, couldn't agree more. "All my wife wanted was the IPod, but we got a Mercedes-Benz instead. And who wouldn't want a Mercedes?! When they learned that I won, my relatives and friends started applying for their own Citibank cards hoping to win in future promotions."

But the biggest winner of all was Leoncio Gosiaco, a businessman from Quezon City. The Citibank Platinum cardholder was the grand prize winner and went home with all the 10 big prizes in the grand draw, including the Mercedes-Benz.

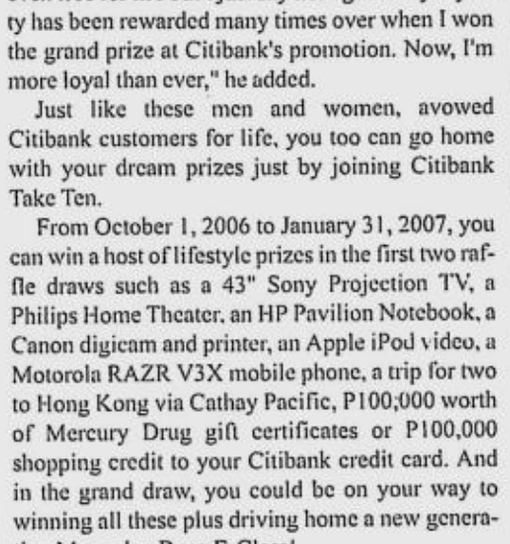
"Open my wallet and all you will see is one card - my Citibank Platinum. With its generous credit line, I don't need any other credit card. It also has all these features that I haven't had the chance to use, but I like knowing that I have at my disposal like the 24-hour concierge service and travel accident and inconvenience protection," said Gosiaco.

"Other banks continue to offer me their cards, with waived membership fees, no annual fees, even free for life but I just say no. I guess my loyalty has been rewarded many times over when I won the grand prize at Citibank's promotion. Now, I'm more loyal than ever," he added.

Just like these men and women, avowed Citibank customers for life, you too can go home with your dream prizes just by joining Citibank Take Ten.

From October 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007, you can win a host of lifestyle prizes in the first two raffle draws such as a 43" Sony Projection TV, a Philips Home Theater, an HP Pavilion Notebook, a Canon digicam and printer, an Apple iPod video, a Motorola RAZR V3X mobile phone, a trip for two to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific, P100,000 worth of Mercury Drug gift certificates or P100,000 shopping credit to your Citibank credit card. And in the grand draw, you could be on your way to winning all these plus driving home a new generation Mercedes-Benz E-Class!

Register now for a chance to win all 10 prizes in Citibank's Take Ten! Text CITI <last 10 digits of your Citibank credit card number> and send to 2366.



Dr. Aser Acosta won a Mercedes-Benz!

citibank Gold VISA

It's more than just a credit card.

It's your chance to win all 10 prizes in Citibank's TAKE TEN!

For every P1,000 purchase you make with your Citibank Credit Card, you'll get a raffle entry for a chance to win any of the cool prizes from Sony, Philips, HP, Canon, Apple, Motorola, Cathay Pacific and Mercury Drug. You'll also get a chance to win ALL the prizes along with a New Generation Mercedes-Benz E-Class in the Grand Draw. Hurry, promo period is from October 1, 2006 until January 31, 2007!

Start Christmas shopping now! The more you spend, the more your chances of winning ALL 10 prizes. Visit www.citibank.com.ph or call 24-Hour CitiPhone at **(02) 995-9999** for more details.

To register:
Text **CITI** <space> **<Last 10 digits of your Citibank Credit Card>**
and send to **2366**

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citibank

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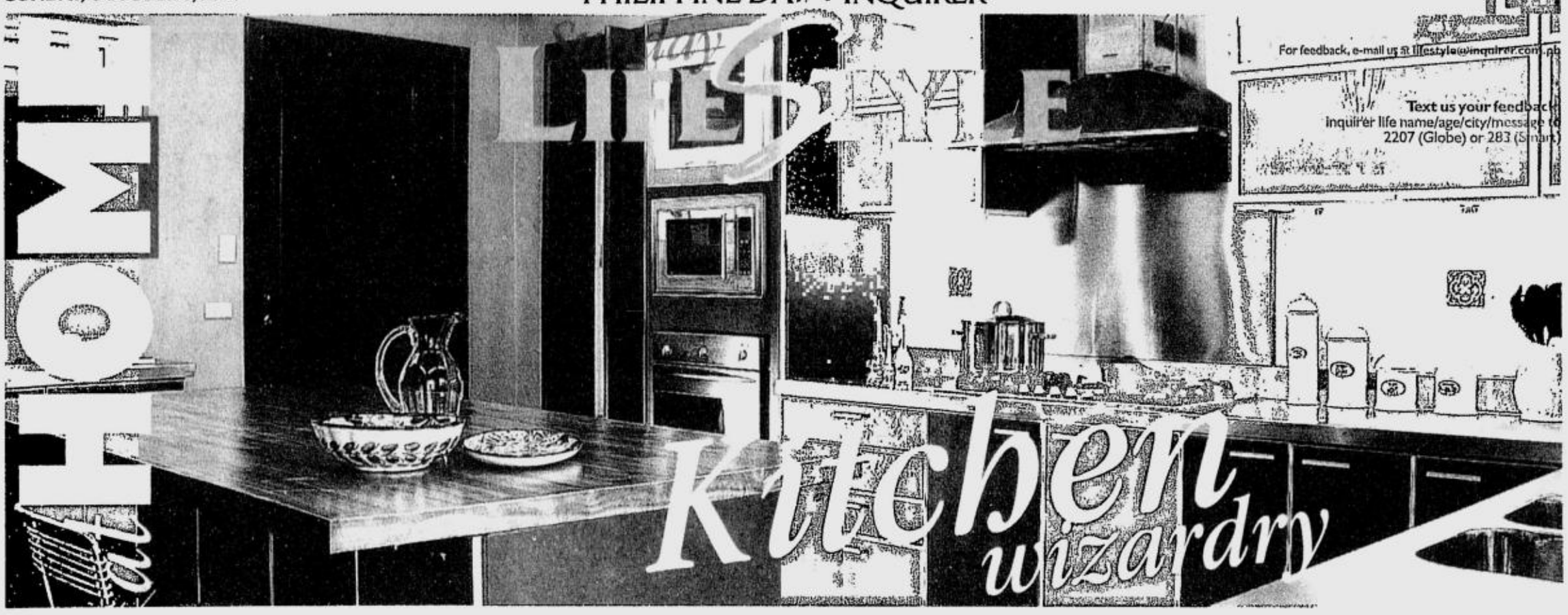


Cupboard cunning

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

KITCHEN ORGANIZATION—any chef will tell you it's an absolute must.

Here are some tips on how to transform your chaotic kitchen into a place of order and efficiency.

Storing

- Organize your pantry the way it is done in a grocery store—by category. Consolidate canned goods, boxed food, breakfast food, dessert, drinks, condiments, disposable plastic wares, etc. into their own groupings. You can also consolidate kids' school snacks.
- Place newly bought food in the back portion of kitchen cabinets and place older food in front. This ensures continuous usage and limits cases of food getting expired and wasted.
- Alphabetize your spice racks.
- Depending on your kitchen design and its storage size, store kitchen items by:

Type or category: All similar items should go together (for example, rolling pins and cake mixers go with all other baking materials).

Use: All items used daily, such as coffee maker, coffee, creamer, sugar, filter and toaster.

Size: All long utensils or bulky appliances together.

- Keep pots and cooking utensils near the stove, and glasses near the refrigerator.
- Stack pots and pans to save space. Store all the lids together.
- Store separately items used during special occasions only (Easter or Halloween baking pans and Christmas platters) so they won't get in the way of items you use daily. Label the container or area "Occasions."
- If space allows, keep your recipe books in the kitchen.
- Store plastic bags near the wastebasket.
- Frequently used items should be stored at waist level or higher. It takes less effort to reach up than down. But keep heavy items near the floor.
- In storing breakables, don't forget to label the container "fragile" and note which side it should stand. Space them generously and don't forget to cushion.

Tossing

Do a quarterly checkup. Go around your kitchen and see which items you can donate or pass on. Transport these to your chosen

CUPBOARD/ E3

PANTRY raid is quick and easy with this Blum unit equipped with inner drawers and inner pull-outs, as well as shelving above shoulder level, from Optimus Space Solutions.

Agent Provocateur ◦ Allson ◦ Aramis ◦ Armani ◦ Becca ◦ Black Up ◦ Bonlux ◦ Britney ◦ Bulgari ◦ Burberry ◦ Cacharel ◦ Calvin Klein ◦ Carolina Herrera ◦ Christian Dior ◦ Cristina Fitzgerald ◦ Clarins ◦ Clinique ◦ Davidoff ◦ Dedeo ◦ Dessange ◦ Dior ◦ DKNY ◦ Dunhill ◦ Elizabeth Arden ◦ Ermenigildo Zegna ◦ Escada ◦ Estee Lauder ◦ Ferragamo ◦ Givenchy ◦ Gucci ◦ Guerlain ◦ Guy Laroche ◦ Herbline Essentials ◦ Hugo Boss ◦ Ingrid Miller ◦ Issey Miyake ◦ JLo ◦ Jean Paul Gaultier ◦ Kenneth Cole ◦ Kenzo ◦ L'Occitane ◦ La Colline ◦ Lacoste ◦ Lancome ◦ Lanvin ◦ Lise Watier ◦ L'Oreal ◦ Loewe ◦ MAC ◦ Make up Forever ◦ Molton Brown ◦ Mont Blanc ◦ Mi Mascara ◦ Nina Ricci ◦ Opalis ◦ Origins ◦ Paco Rabanne ◦ Pau Nehans ◦ Paul Smith ◦ Quiness ◦ Ralph Lauren ◦ Sarah Jessica Parker ◦ Serge Lutens ◦ Shiseido ◦ Skin Doctors ◦ Sonia Rykiel ◦ Stella McCartney ◦ Thierry Mugler ◦ Tommy Hilfiger ◦ YSL ◦ Valmont ◦ Versace

To break the ice,
we thought we'd drop a few names

Marionnaud
2nd Floor, Mall of Asia

PRINCE of couture Rajo Laurel, Malu Gamboa, Kitty Jacinto, Anton Barretto and Leica Carpo

FASHIONABLE Iloilo society. Pauline Banusing, Marissa Goriceta, Felix Goriceta III, Connie Ledesma, best-dressed Susan Florete, Marjz Florete, Eric de los Santos, Carrie Dizon and Mark Goriceta

LIFESTYLE Asia editor Sari Yap, Pitoy Moreno and Ditas German

SISTERS Malu Fernandez and Lilibeth Campos, with designer Lulu Tan Gan

STUDIO 546's Coco Villanueva, Eric Maningat and Yvette Ilagan

When disasters come, keeping an optimistic attitude eases a great deal of the pain

Away, stormy weather!

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

NOT ALL OF LIFE'S STORMS involve wind and rain. Whether it's a tragic death in the family, a marital separation or a debilitating disease, our lives are never spent in a calm sea. When storms come, keeping an optimistic attitude eases a great deal of the pain.

Personally, I coped with my brother's death from motorcycle accident by transforming myself into an outrageous individual, living life by that famous adage, "Carpe diem! Seize the day! Treat everyday as if it's on sale and you have to 'Buy Now!'"

When I turned 40, I consciously decided to focus on keeping myself healthy and fit, the better to weather life's storms.

My athletic younger cousin **Jon-Jon Rufino** introduced me to the whole endurance-obsessed world of triathlon and helped me to focus through Ashtanga yoga. Even the advent of a fourth time at motherhood has only meant relaxation from the training circuit. After getting so involved with numerous physically strenuous activities, people have been noticing my slimmer figure and better posture. In fact, my parents recently told me I am too thin.

Hello? Haven't they ever heard of the line: "You can never be too thin or... too pretty!?!"

With daily exercises, I don't feel guilty from the occasional midnight snack, like a bite or two of Leonidas Gourmet chocolates. Local importer **Vanessa Figueroa** recently sent me a box and I have been obsessed with hiding the sweets from my husband, **Dennis**.

Snacking is only headed for turbulent times, what with the holiday season here already! I always know Christmas is coming when the first bazaar is held. Half the time in a bazaar is spent trying all the free food samples.

For instance, today is the Assumption Bazaar at the Hotel InterContinental, and who can resist those light and flaky Assumption tarts? By the way, that tired joke about "making *tusok-tusok* the fish balls" is so untrue. We never had fish balls in our canteen.

Breast care

There are so many health maxims. One of my favorites is "an ounce of prevention equals a pound of... flesh?" or something like that. I was thinking about my own two pounds of flesh recently, when I had my annual breast exam using Breastcare, a revolutionary breast self-exam glove to help women detect newly developed cysts/lumps more accurately and conveniently.

The highly magnifying, palpation effect of the glove enhances your ability to feel lumps because it provides a higher level of tactile awareness.

Entertainment/pharma brothers **Glenn** and **William Llamas** demonstrated the effectiveness of the glove by having me feel small pieces of paper on a pane of glass, which I couldn't detect with my bare hands. The brothers advise women to do the self-exam once a month and preferably a few days after their periods.

Interacting about breasts with two dashing young men was awkward but hilarious. It was pretty difficult to keep a straight face as they explained the procedure of the exam (on the glass board, of course). They also explained that breast cancer afflicts one in 10 Filipinas, an alarmingly high ratio. Early detection not only save lives but breasts as well, as lumps are easier to remove than whole breasts! Well, knock on wood, because most of us Pinays already have tiny breasts!

The Breastcare glove is so effective and economical as well. The life span of each glove is about two years. Call the Breastcare hotline at 3749999 or e-mail dchpinc@yahoo.com.

Elegant ladies

This year's best-dressed ladies of the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS) each received a Breastcare kit. My chic cousin **Leica Carpo** is the youngest on this year's list. At the well-attended PCS Ball at the Shang, the most elegant ladies modeled fabulous gowns by famous designers on a fashionable runway set up in the middle of the Rizal Ballroom.

Master host **Johnny Litton** did a fine job of getting the highest bids for the donated jewelry and watches that were auctioned off for the benefit of PCS's cancer centers.

It was great that the best-dressed honorees came from all over the country, such as **Margie Moran Floirendo** of Davao City, **Rosebud Sala** of Cebu and **Susan Florete** of Iloilo. When I was in Iloilo last August for the Philippine Tatler launch, I met the nicest bunch and the most hospitable people I have ever met. My trip was totally filled with delicious food, warm hospitality and rich heritage.

Perfect de-stresser

Stress is one of the factors that cause cancer cells to thrive. It's an excellent idea to de-stress via pampering massages, foot spas and facials. That's why four years ago, four friends and I opened up Urban Spa at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Managing partner **Irene Ibañez** arranged a tie-up with **Emma Pante** of Color Me Mine and hosted an all-day, interactive talk-cum-bazaar in our little corner of the mall.

Fashion prince of couture **Rajo Laurel** did an informative makeover session for four ladies with matching hair and makeup by Studio 546. Creative, glam stylist **Eric Maningat** did my total transformation for that day, too. On the bazaar side, **Happy David** jewelry and creations by **Manny Capulla** were on sale.

Attendees enjoyed fantastic Italian fare, thanks to Trattoria Gourmet, who also demonstrated a quick pesto spread. None of my parties is complete without giveaways, and thanks to Color Me Mine, Lancôme and Cereo Candles, this anniversary's Spa-goers took home some great prizes.

Indeed, when life's storms hit us hard, spa therapy is the perfect de-stresser to get us back on terra firma.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

UNILEVER'S Howard and Cristina Belton with Isabel Caro Wilson and UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham

URBAN Spa's Happy Concepcion and Happy David

SOUTH Forbes' Vay Ng and son Jon

HALL of Famers Amparito Lhuillier and Marguerite Lhuillier

BEST-DRESSED lister Baby Cruz and PCS' Fortune Ledesma

ELEGANT ladies Reena Angeles and Nikki Teodoro

SISTERS-IN-LAW Sandy Lamb Moran and best-dressed Margie Moran Floirendo

SILK Cocoon's Frances Lim and Jeannie Goulbourn

SHOW-BIZ royalty Ayen and Franco Laurel

URBAN Spa's Irene Ibañez, Ann Sytin and Mellay del Rosario

COLOR Me Mine's Emma Pante (right) with Lilin Vea and Celia Reyes-Ornedo

PHILIPPINE Cancer Society head Helen Ong and best-dressed Rosebud Sala

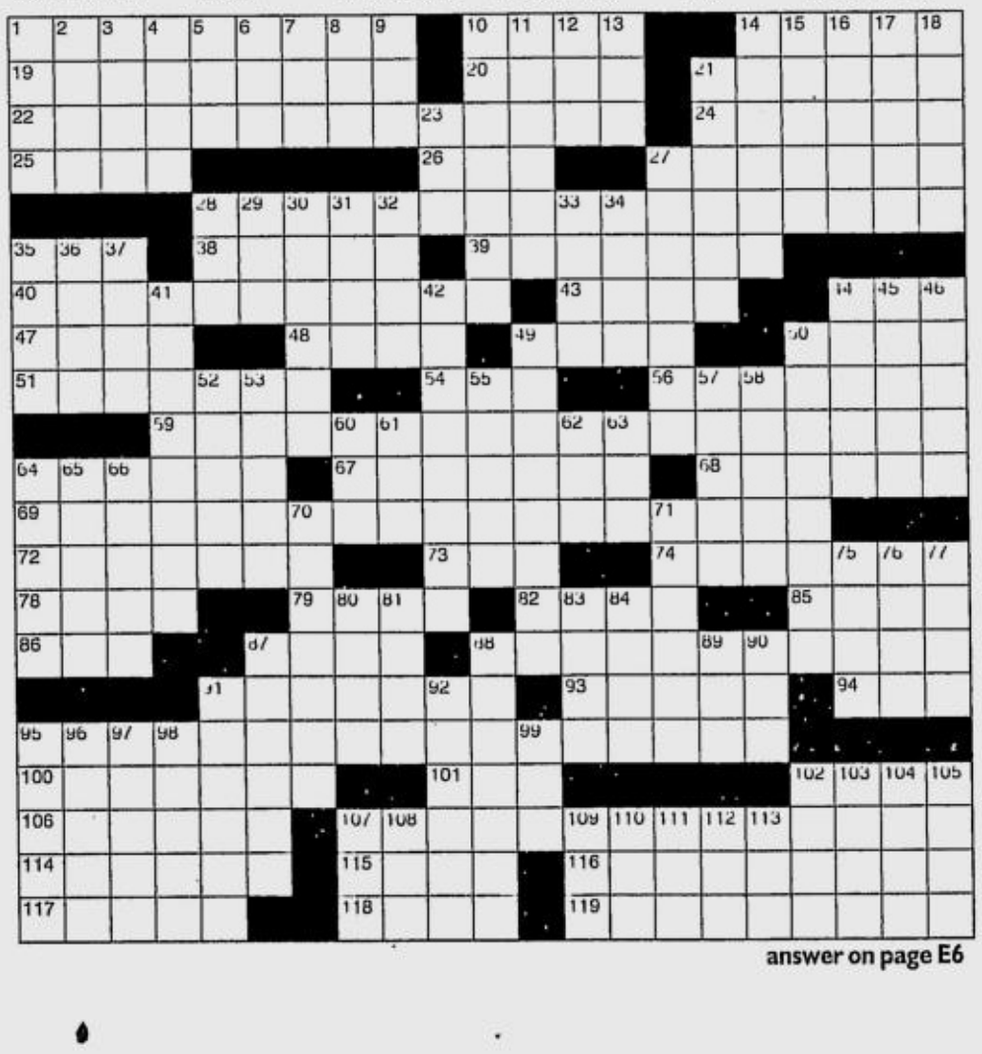
ENTERTAINMENT brothers William and Glenn Llamas

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **SNOW WHITE**

ACROSS
1 Soul-stirring
10 Read hastily
14 Pottery bit
19 Exploding star
20 "— it the truth!"
21 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Duke
22 FRIEND #1
24 Mannerly
25 Yearnings
26 Polished off
27 Bit of trivia
28 FRIEND #2
35 Trail off
38 "... — man put asunder"
39 Heartfelt
40 FRIEND #3
43 Payment to play
44 Swirly letter
47 Biblical wise men
48 Writer Uris
49 Thom — shoes
50 "The Nanny" star Drescher
51 Linz locale
54 Actress Myrna
56 King of Norway, 1872-1905
59 FRIEND #4
64 Textured like a beach
67 New Jersey city, county, or river
68 Ultimatum concluder
69 FRIEND #5
72 Animal that plays dead
73 Space aliens, for short
74 Radar of "M*A*S*H"
78 See 80-Down
79 Slightly
82 Hamburger on —
85 Sandwich condiment
86 Byrnes who was "Kookie"
87 Some kind of —
88 FRIEND #6
91 Seed sower
93 British good-byes
94 Big — whale
95 FRIEND #7
100 House-showing agent
101 Gene material
102 Wailuku locale
106 "Mama" Cass
107 Theme of this puzzle
114 Powerful
115 San —, Italy
116 Worship
117 U.S. flag's 50
118 Pt. of YMCA
119 Dallas-to-Detroit direction

DOWN
1 See at a distance
2 Stubborn beast
3 Unlatch
4 Steeped beverages
5 1040 org.
6 Billfold bill
7 Doze off
8 Gardner of old films
9 — Vegas
10 Fried lightly
11 Movie house
12 Very old: Abbr.
13 — degree
14 Track-laying winter vehicle
15 Sword handles
16 "Ciao!"
17 Knot again
18 "Judge —" (Stallone film)
21 Scanty
23 Pony up
27 "Never fear"
28 Tarzan player Ron
29 Pershing's WWI command
30 Canonized Norw. king
31 Memo line
32 Gray wolf
33 Bric-a- —
34 "— Karenina"
35 Bombeck of home humor
36 Steady guy
37 Holders of groceries
41 Most flighty (Var.)
42 Joined the military
44 Flynn of "Istanbul"
45 Shoves off
46 Subtly nasty
49 1942 Rita Hayworth musical
50 Brief meeting with someone in person
52 Half-pints
53 "— say so!"
55 Beginning
57 One tending to horse hooves
58 Chili con —
60 Prefix with center
61 Scurried
62 Actor Wheaton
63 Here, to Yvette
64 Troll relative
65 Caught with a lasso
66 "I'm — Cowhand"
70 Carrier based in Muscat
71 Been in attendance at
75 Zhivago's love
76 Caustic cleansers
77 "Star Wars" Jedi
80 With 78-Across, fishy deli sandwich
81 Memo abbr.
83 Simple sandwiches, for short
84 Neighbor of Idaho
87 Louisa May —
88 Attaches, as a patch
89 Do injury to
90 S.F. hours
91 Mountain climbers' spikes
92 Zimbalist Sr. and Jr.
95 Gets set
96 Old Greek serf
97 Crimean seaport
98 More devious
99 "Norma —" (Sally Field film)
102 Pal
103 Opera song
104 "X-Files" sightings
105 "— that special!"
107 Lead-in for la la
108 "— a Rebel" (1962 hit)
109 U-Haul unit
110 Tokyo, formerly
111 Negative conjunction
112 "The 5,000 Fingers of —" (Dr. Seuss film)
113 Baby's cry



answer on page E6

Cupboard cunning

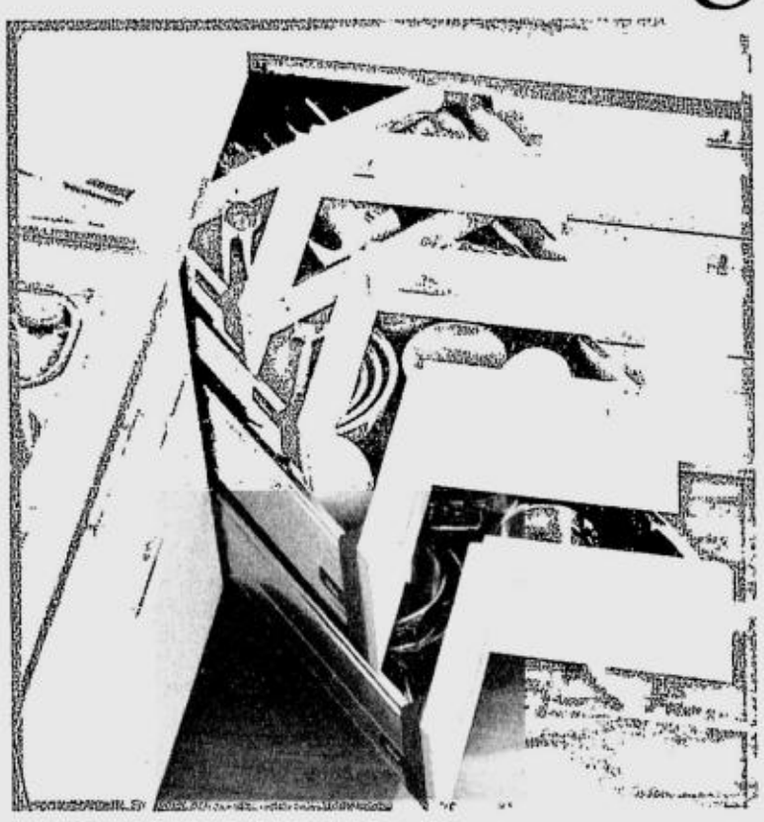
From page E1

recipients as soon as possible.

- Cookware that's rusted (or anything that's rusting, for that matter)
- Items you rarely use, if ever, or those that are too much trouble to operate.
- Serving ware or drinking glasses with chips or cracks
- Thinning hand towels and *basahan*
- Burnt oven mitts with holes
- Knives that have seen better days
- Wooden utensils that have gotten moldy
- Items with missing partners, such as when the lid is present but the body is missing in action
- Pots with broken handles (You might spill boiling food on yourself or other people with these!)
- Duplicates, if you don't need more than one of any item
- Recipes with ingredients that are too hard to get or too expensive
- Souvenir mugs. These can also be used as holders for writing instruments. Either use them or lose them. You have photos from those trips, anyway.

Tools and containers

- Have broken drawers and cabinet doors fixed so you can maximize storage capacity.
- Add shelves if you find that the spaces between your shelves are too far apart.



IN THIS CORNER. Easy access into the farthest reaches of the corner and lowest level in these Blum drawers from Optimus Space Solutions, Inc.

- Make use of pull-out wire baskets, which makes accessing items easy.
- Use drawer dividers to keep utensils organized.
- Use clear containers for instant visibility, and airtight containers to keep things fresh and bug-free.
- Tame the numerous scattered plastic bags with plastic bag organizers.
- Use a tray basket for condiments or vitamins.
- Employ binder clips and rubber bands for storing opened bags of snacks or other seasonings.
- Get footstools if the cabinets are out of reach.
- Put often-used cleaning supplies on a basket or plastic caddy.
- Stick a slim notepad on the refrigerator for putting down "to-buys."

Organizing the ref

- As much as you can, organize the contents of your refrigerator by category, keeping similar food groups together.
- If you're constantly forgetting about leftovers stored in different areas of the fridge, designate a permanent spot for these. This way, it's easier to check which food can be heated up and consumed right away. No more forgotten, moldy food!
- Designated leftover shelf already crowded? Transfer food from plates or pots into ziplock bags to utilize any space left.
- For uncooked meat, make sure your containers are spill- or drip-proof, as this can contaminate other food in the fridge and cause serious sickness.

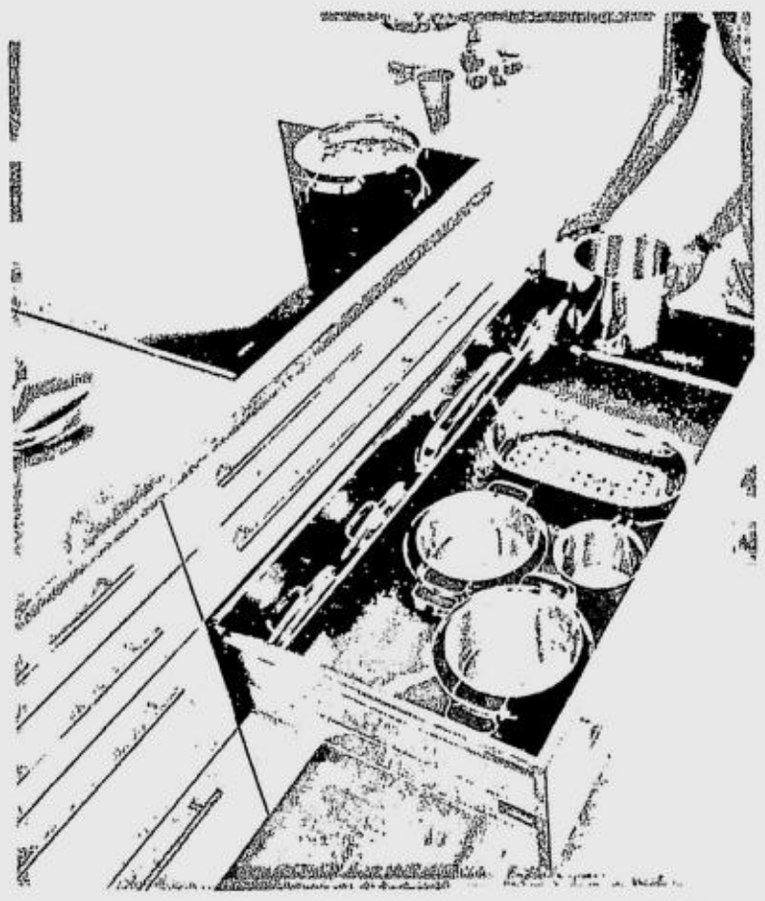
Others tips

- Limit items on the kitchen counter. Counters are designed more for working than storing. Keep the counter spacious for a smoother workflow.
- Keep purely decorative items (decor that don't double as kitchen tools) to a minimum. A bowl of fruits or a nice clock might be sufficient. Too many displays can only clutter kitchen space.
- Put labels either on the body of the container if storing in a cabinet or shelf, or on tops of lids if stored in drawers.

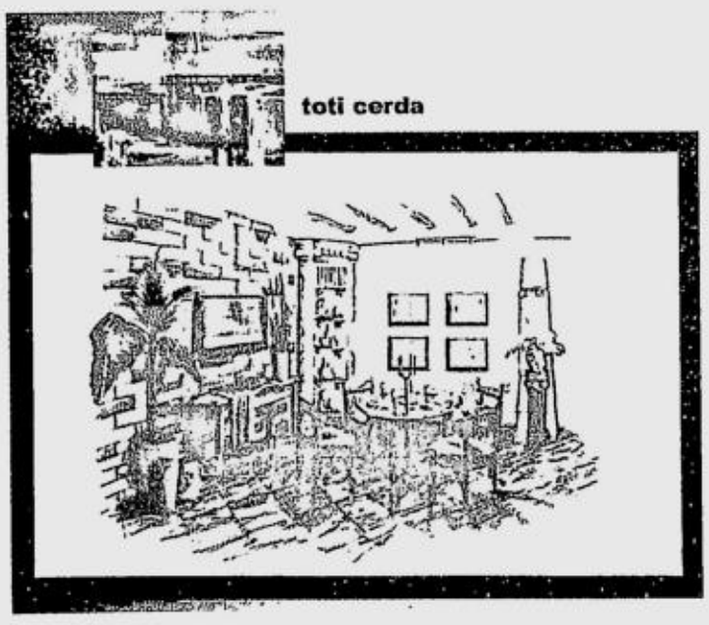
In organizing your kitchen, think about the different activities that take place in it. Designate spots for these activities. Store things where you use them. For example, the chopping or preparation area should have the chopping board, knives and trash can at hand.

There's no cookie-cutter way to organizing, especially when it comes to the kitchen. Just remember to store things in their most logical and convenient places, and eliminate any unnecessary steps that create extra work for you.

Having an organizing dilemma or want to share an excellent organizing tip? Post at www.rippleeffectorganizing.com and get your answer or tip included in future articles.



PULLOUTS. Pots and pans are safely stored and easily accesible in spacious, high-fronted full-extension drawers by Blum.



NATIVE SPLENDOR. Inspired by a traditional eclectic style, combining rustic furniture with modern paintings and classic accent wall, featuring works of Toti Cerda. Designed by Marjurie Abundo, Avegail Cabrido, Hanilet Orgas

Masterpiece art, masterpiece interiors

THE PHILIPPINE school of Interior Design mounts "Obra Maestra: Art Masterpieces in Masterpiece Interiors," a graduation exhibit, Sept. 29-Oct. 31, at 3/F, Greenbelt 1 (former National Sports Grill area), Ayala Center, Makati.

The Advanced Class of 2006 will present 24 booths inspired and focusing on art pieces by Filipino masters like National Artists Napoleon Abueva, Ben-Cab and Guillermo Tolentino; Mauro "Malang" Santos, Manuel Baldemor, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Roberto Duldulao, Nemi Miranda, Ramon Orlina, Impy Pilapil, Florencio Concepcion, Saturday Group president Buds Convocar, Ferdinand Doctolero, Edgar Doctor, Budji Layug, Mike Aguas, Gilbert Gano Alberto, Tosha Albor, Hermes Alegre, Philipp Brita Badon, Banz Bañez, Ugo Bigyan, Arnel Borja, Jeff Cawaon Cablog, Angel Cacnio, Ferdinand Cacnio, Michael Cacnio, Lexygius Calip, Toti Cerda, Eng Chan, Joe Datuin, Honrado Fernandez and Raul Isidro.

Rounding off the list are Eugene Jarque, Lianbien Lao, Adler Llagas, Julie Lluch, Joseph LoFranco, Jordan Mang-osan, Lauro "Larry" Memjie, Milo Naval, Justin Nuyda, Ricarte M. Puruganan, Dan Raralio, Pidge Reyes, Ronaldo Ruiz, Cherry Sanchez, Seb Chua, Soler Santos, Claude Tayag, Ronald Ventura and Alvin Villaruel.

URBANE POLISH. A living room done in Philippine modern contemporary design, in an inviting and cozy atmosphere, with the works of Robert Duldulao and Vicaldo. Designed by Elsie Caw, Elijane Chua and Jennifer Go

1 *Make a wish list.*

What have you always dreamed of? No matter how outrageous, if you can dream it, I'll build it. The first step to creating that perfect kitchen is to list down all the things you want. But please don't say a kitchen that magically cooks everything by itself.

One of the more unconventional requests I've received was from a client who had a floor plan that did not have any partitions between the kitchen, the dining room, and the backyard. It was a kitchen that would constantly be on center stage, so the kitchen had to blend in with the rest of the house. I had to design the kitchen like it was a really big piece of furniture, classic and flowing with the rest of the home design. It needed to blend right in, calling attention, but not too much.

PHOTOS: ARNEL MURILLO

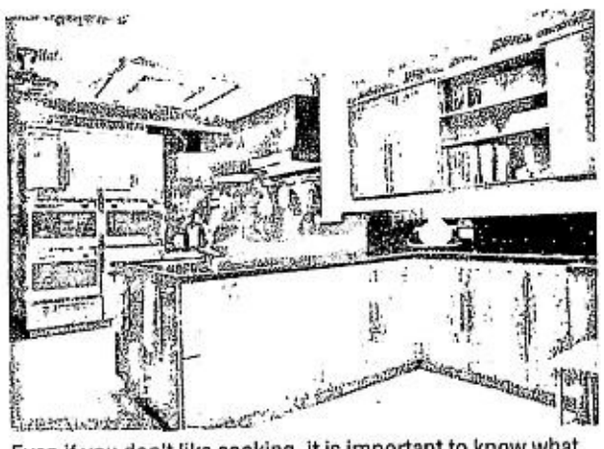
A kitchen cooked to your taste

Take heart—creating the home food center of your dreams is easier than you think

By Rafael Calero
Contributor

CREATING SOMETHING as central as a kitchen is something you should take seriously. The kitchen is where so many activities take place. Need to cook up that perfect kitchen? Check out these five simple tips on how to do it just right. Achieving your dream kitchen is not impossible and does not have to be a killer on your wallet. Just keep these five things in mind, and you'll surely be able to come up with a kitchen that is cooked to your taste.

If you have questions or kitchen dilemmas, e-mail kitchenstudioinc@yahoo.com, visit our showroom at 105 Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati, with tel. 6382080 or 0916-6077293, or log on to www.kitchenstudio-ph.com.



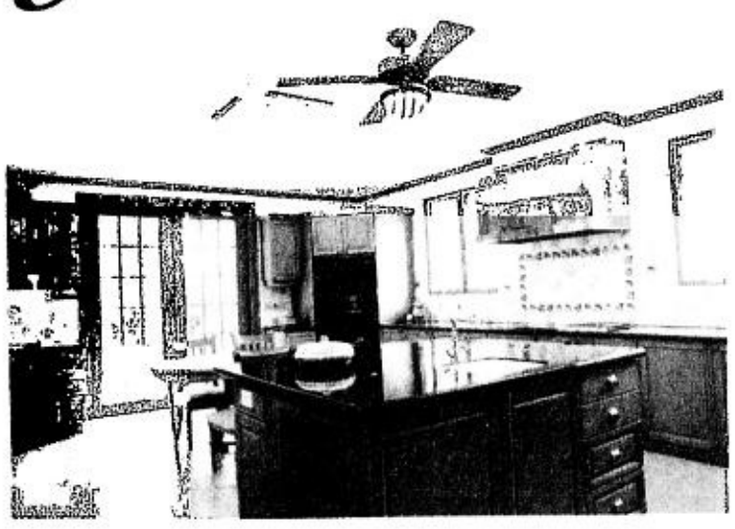
PHOTOS: AVA LUGTU

2 *Consider what kind of cooking will take place in your kitchen.*

Even if you don't like cooking, it is important to know what foods are most often prepared in your kitchen. Think about what food you like to cook the most, then think about how you'll need your kitchen to respond to your movements. This makes your cooking much more efficient, and you'll always feel at ease in your kitchen—something which is important when cooking. It's often when you're stressed that you end up burning the egg!

In this particular kitchen, I sat down with the homeowner's chef and we talked about what kind of cooking he did and what he needed to execute the dishes to perfection. In the end, the kitchen needed six sinks, three ovens, three refrigerators, bread warmer, a wine chiller, ice maker, a customized range top with a high-powered burner, a grill, a griddle, a heavy-duty hood, and a lot fun. It was a really specific kitchen, but it was what the client needed in order to do some serious entertaining.

3 *Determine what functions your kitchen needs to perform.*



PHOTOS: AVA LUGTU

ARNEL MURILLO

Is it a kitchen for entertaining, a show kitchen, a practical kitchen? Most people have a kitchen for show and then a dirty kitchen. It is more practical to marry the two and come up with a perfect kitchen that works like there's no tomorrow and looks beautiful while doing it. Let's call this kind of kitchen the purebred stallion.

A lot of the time what you can do is build that workhorse and then give it style. Something as simple as a vibrant cabinet color, imported backsplash tiles, antique fixtures or a specialized center island can transform your workhorse into that beautiful thoroughbred.

This particular kitchen has a beautiful teakwood island counter, and stainless-steel chairs with cushions matching the cabinet colors. The client had hand-carried back some 150-year-old hand-painted Moroccan tiles which served as a really nice accent to the light-colored backsplash. Topped off with three non-matching antique lamps as centerpiece, this kitchen is something for show but is there for anytime you need that extra horsepower.

ARNEL MURILLO

4 *Take note of how much gathering occurs in the kitchen.*

Ask yourself, is your kitchen only for cooking or will you eat in it as well? How many people will be using your kitchen? Do you have children who love to be with you when you're cooking? Details, details! Sometimes we forget the details of all the people who need and use the home kitchen, and that's when you start to have the mess of who used what and why did they move this here and there is a mustard stain on the ceiling, and... you get the picture.

This kitchen was designed for a family where everyone cooks. Designing it was a challenge as I had to keep more than one person in mind. The kitchen is very open to someone cooking and another person doing something like homework or a term paper. It even allows for two people to be cooking two different things at one time! This is because the island countertop is where the range is found, so you can actually have two people on opposite sides of the island, making their own little creations without getting in each other's way. And let's not forget the person with something baking in the oven!

5 *Work within a budget.*

So far we've seen some really beautiful kitchens and we've fulfilled some people's wish lists. I know exactly what you're thinking. You think that all kitchens need money in order to look fabulous. Well, don't put that wish list down just yet! Working within a budget, whether it be space constraints, or money-wise, your dream kitchen can still be built.

I designed a country-looking kitchen for an apartment in the city. The floor area of the kitchen was about 140 sq ft and the client was on a relatively fixed budget. So I recycled the cabinets and gave them a new coat of paint, worked with inexpensive but good appliances, local floor tiles, and Indian granite for the countertops, which is usually more reasonably priced. I also used things you could find at a local hardware store—the drawer and cabinet handles, for example. Instead of tiling the walls, we stenciled them with a cute leaf design, giving a very country feel.

PHOTOS: AVA LUGTU

Chef Rocco's five essential kitchen tools

FROM THE BOOK "ROCCO'S 5-Minute Flavor":

1. Sauté pan

The first thing you need is a large sauté pan with high sides, like a five-quart chicken fryer. Make sure it has at least a ½-inch-thick clad bottom, or choose a cast-iron pan, such as one from Lodge, with or without porcelain, or a five-quart cast-iron with porcelain enamel from a maker such as Le Creuset. Circulon makes a heavy cast-aluminum pan that does the trick as well.

2. Stovetop grill pan

The next thing you'll need is a stovetop grill pan. Again, Lodge, Le Creuset and Circulon all make great ones. Again, a heavy and thick-clad bottom for retaining heat is a must. And be sure it is large enough to hold four portions, because every recipe in this book is for four people.

3. A six- to eight-quart stockpot/pasta pot

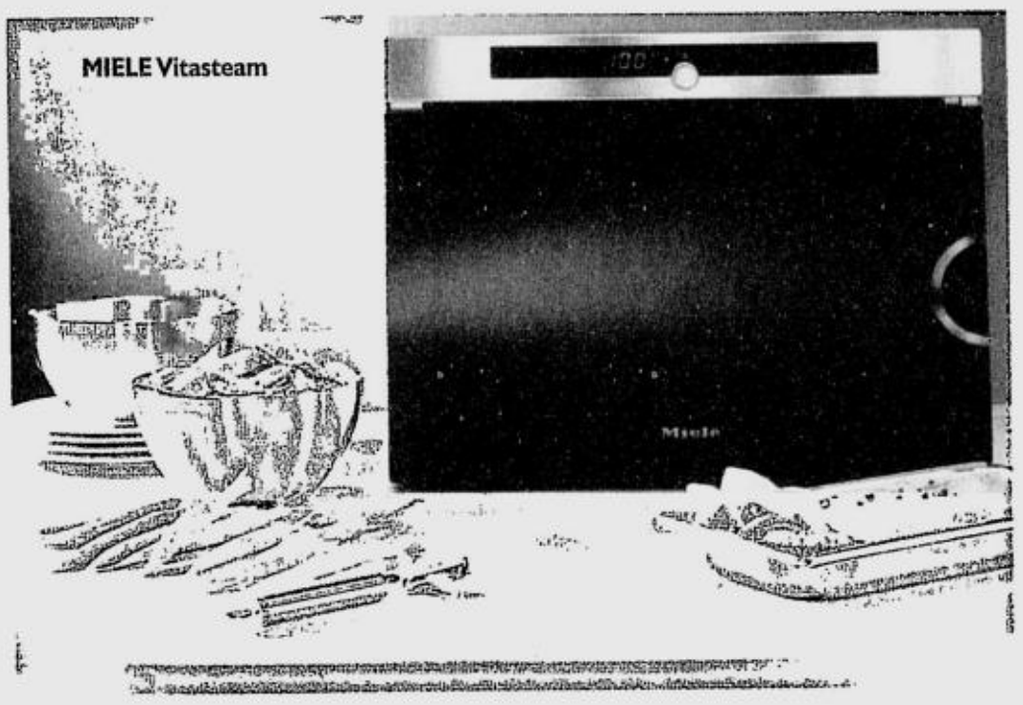
This is essential for boiling water and deep-fat frying.

4. Broiler

I have rediscovered the power of the oven broiler. Again, while not as hot as a professional kitchen broiler, it has unlimited output—just turn it on and give it time to let the heat build.

5. Microwave oven

I have also discovered that the microwave oven can be a terrific partner in the quest for five-minute flavor.



Seal in natural flavor with one-dial steam cooker

MIELE, A LEADING GERMAN APPLIANCE company, has come up with a breakthrough steam oven technology that enhances the taste of food while ensuring that nutrients are retained.

The Miele Vitasteam makes it possible to cook with little or no salt, fat, seasoning and spices. But the food's natural flavor, texture and color are retained.

Studies suggest that Vitamin C retention, among others, is 50-percent higher in Vitasteam-cooked food.

Unlike conventional steamers, the Vitasteam has a separate water container where steam is created until it is ready to be infused into the food chamber.

The process, and the fact that the steamer has rapid heat conduction, ensures exact, even cooking, while sealing in natural flavor, color and texture.

The Vitasteam is also preferred by health clinics specializing in coronary and diabetes care.

The North Rhine-Westphalia's Diabetes-Centre in Bad Oeynhausen, Germany, as well as the Schüchtermann Clinic in Bad Rothenfelde, a coronary care clinic, and the Dörenberg Clinic in Bad Iburg, an orthopedic center, insist on the use of steam cookers in promoting a nutritious, fat-free diet to lower the risk of vascular diseases.

Training kitchens of these clinics all use Miele steamers.

With the Vitasteam's one-dial operation, all a user has to do is put the food inside the steamer, set the temperature and duration, and return when the dish is done.

The steamer's generous capacity also allows cooking up to three different dishes simultaneously without the transfer of flavors. Complete meals for up to eight people can be prepared at the same time.

The Miele steam cooker was developed as a freestanding appliance to fit any kitchen. It takes up about as much space as a traditional microwave oven, so it can be placed on a worktop or table.

By simply plugging it in, the cooking process is started as the appliance comes with its own onboard water tank. This feature also makes it possible to transport the Vitasteam easily. It can even be taken to culinary soirees.

The Miele Vitasteam is exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc., with showrooms at Pioneer corner Reliance Streets, Mandaluyong City. It is also available in selected Rustan's branches (Makati, Alabang and Shangri-La).

Call 6348587 or e-mail corporate@focusglobal.com. You may also log on to www.focusglobalinc.com.

When cooking is a passion

THE DUAL Fuel Range from Wolf combines the best of two worlds: gas-operated dual-stacked burners on top and dual convection electric oven at the bottom.

PEOPLE TO WHOM COOKING IS a passion want sophisticated cooking implements that meet the efficiency, speed and performance they demand.

The award-winning manufacturer of luxury cooking appliances, Wolf Appliance Company, has introduced the Dual Fuel Range, a technological wonder that combines gas-operated dual-stacked burners on top and dual convection electric oven at the bottom.

The sealed surface burners make ultimate control possible, from searing heat to a subtle flame to sustain the right temperature for simmering sauces and soups. Options include infrared charbroiler, infrared griddle or the French Top, with automatic re-ignition at all settings.

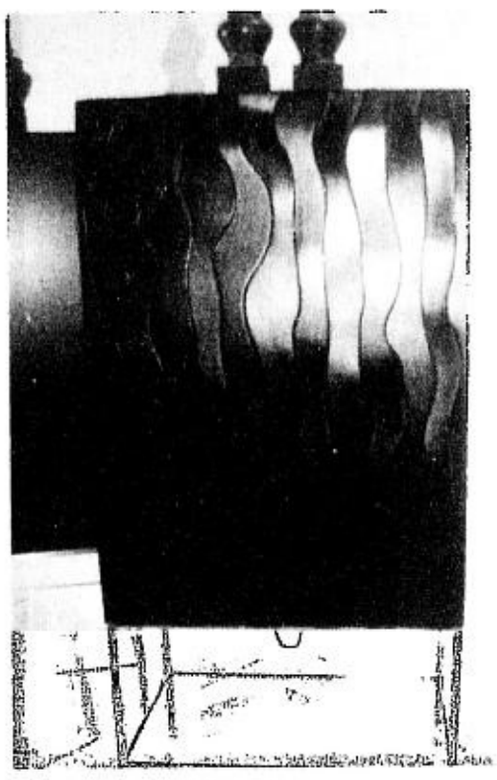
The range has a smart porting mechanism. Holes of burners are positioned so they do not come into contact with the grate.

Wolf's exclusive dual convection system delivers even temperature and airflow throughout the range. It features two fans and four heating elements for precise control in eight cooking modes: bake, roast, broil, convection bake, convection roast, convection broil, convection and bake stone.

Despite all the advanced features, the product is user-friendly, with easy-to-use red control knobs.

The showroom of Wolf's exclusive local distributor, Focus Global Inc., is at Pioneer cor. Reliance Streets, Mandaluyong City. Call 6348587 or e-mail corporate@focusglobal.com or visit www.focusglobalinc.com.

High-end furniture and décor sale



THE TWO Serendra Furniture Sale includes this exquisitely designed bar cabinet.

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS launches the newest section of the development for Two Serendra today. It will also offer for sale signature furniture and home décor handpicked by the country's premier interior designers for its model units.

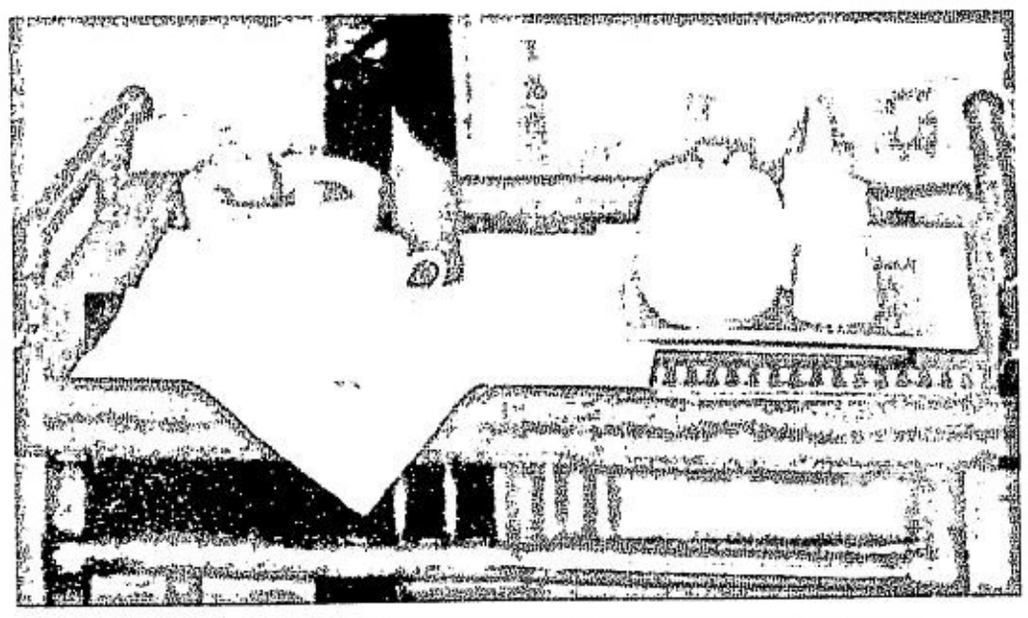
A treasure trove of Asian-inspired collectibles, delicate floral accents, sculptural and modernist furniture, as well as books, antiques and classic home décor will draw you in with the promise of bringing home a piece of the way of life and vibrant style present in Two Serendra.

Famed for its idyllic setting combined with exceptional urban planning, Two Serendra has taken urban living to a new level by dedicating 65 percent of the 12-hectare property to greens and open spaces. This was made possible by placing power lines, telephone cables, roads, vehicular traffic, parking lots, sanitary disposal systems and other facilities underground.

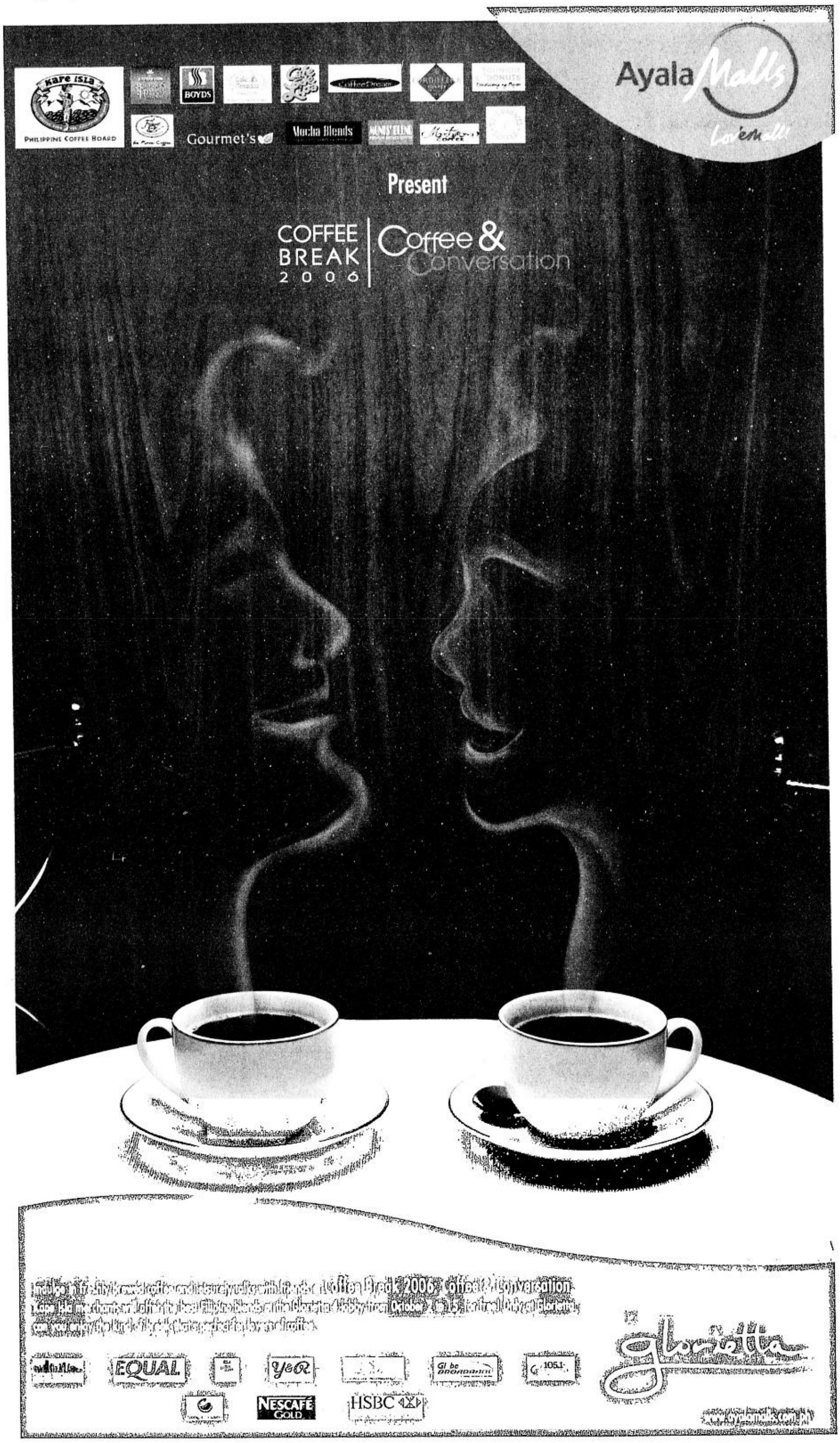
As a result, Two Serendra is able to provide a picturesque environment surrounded by landscaped gardens, lush foliage and an incomparable lifestyle.

Model units are available for viewing daily from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Serendra Sales Pavilion along 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City.

Call 8880000, e-mail twoserendra@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.twoserendra.com.ph.



ON SALE are practical yet decorative home décor accentuated with rustic elements.



HAPPILY gathering fresh produce at Paradizoo Theme Farm

Floral and vegetable fair opens Oct. 6

THE FIRST PARADIZOO FLORAL AND Vegetable Fair will be held Oct. 6-Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Entrance is free, but children must be accompanied by adults.

A limited number of tents will be set up at Paradizoo Theme Farm in Panungyan, Mendez, Cavite, a nature destination, for sellers.

Besides the floral and vegetable exhibits, also featured are organic farm products, a butterfly garden, honey bee farm, pet cemetery, farm animal showcases, landscaping, flower arrangement and backyard farming. Guests who bring exotic flowers and vegetables can even win prizes on the spot.

With the Paradizoo gardens in full bloom, professional flower arrangers will demonstrate their artistry and skills. Like a rambling English garden, Paradizoo has colorful plants like *milflores* (hydrangeas), *santan*, forget me not, purple crumble, *acalupa*, sundrop, bougainvillea, scarlet beauty, red *bandera* Española, *salvia*, *lantana*, golden duranta, rose *pitimini*, and scarlet beauty.

The event is intended to give guests a chance to meet plant growers and dealers who can provide their requirements for the coming All Saints Day.

To reserve a tent slot, call 8999824/28, 8983695, 8999819 or text 0917-8351111; or call Tagaytay at (046)41311244 or 8602238.

Healer of sick trees

DR. ISIDRO R. ESTEBAN, A TREE SURGEON and forestry consultant, will provide a one-of-a-kind service through the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation Inc. (MSBFI) in Quezon City.

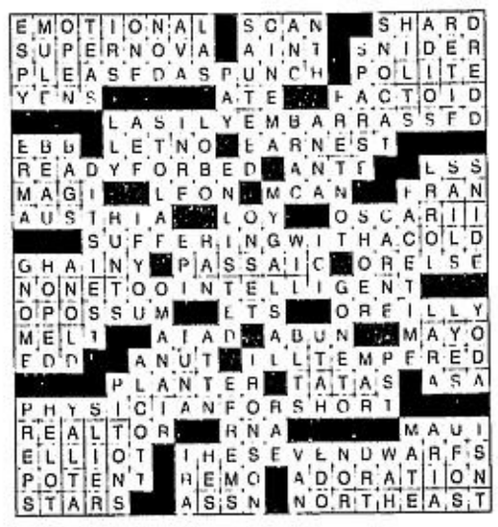
A forestry graduate, Esteban specializes in curing tree ailments, particularly those afflicting centuries-old historical trees.

The MSBFI also has tree-pruning, seed planting, and other services.

It has indigenous trees available for propagation: *bagras*, *tindalo*, *molave*, *narra*, *balitbitan*, *palo santo*, *kamagong*, *banaba*, Palawan cherry, African tulip and *botong*. Next year, *bitaog-palomaria*, red *lauan*, *ipil*, *pili*, *tindalo*, *dao* and *kupang* will be available.

Visit the MBSFI at Quezon Ave. Ext. corner E. de los Santos Ave., Quezon City. Call 9247001/02 or 9240166. You can also e-mail qualitytrees@msbfi.com or visit www.msbfi.com.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

A New York Sunday with Matt, Mark and Martin (and Leo, too), Part 2

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WE DON'T often hear Hollywood actors saying they came from church before their interviews.

That's why it was refreshing to hear Mark Wahlberg say that he just heard Mass one recent Sunday in New York. By coincidence, last year, we also interviewed Mark on a Sunday in NY for John Singleton's "Four Brothers." Mark's proclamation that he heard Mass that day was enough to stir the ever-present Catholic guilt in us to scamper to nearby St. Patrick's Cathedral after our interview.

As we wrote in our column last Friday, Mark co-stars in Martin Scorsese's return to top form, "The Departed," with Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon. We featured the latter two in that column; now, we report on our interviews with Mark and Martin.

Mark plays a foul-mouthed detective in the film about an undercover cop (Leonardo) who has infiltrated South Boston's Irish mob. The syndicate's boss (Jack), however, has his own mole (Matt) in the police force.

Mark's heavily muscled arms were evident even though he wore a long-sleeved shirt. The man is buff. Matt Damon wasn't kidding in his reply when he was asked who would win if he and Leonardo were to engage in a fistfight. "Mark Wahlberg would beat all of us up," Matt answered.

When we told Mark about Matt's comment, he smiled but quickly demurred, "I don't want to fight with anybody."

Marky's reinvention

The punk formerly known as Marky Mark, the rapper we could blame or credit (depending on your fashion aesthetics) for helping popularize the exposed underwear trend among boys and—heaven help us—older men, has completely and successfully reinvented himself.

In 1988, the short-term member of, believe it or not, New Kids on the Block (he reportedly quit after six months because he was unwilling to take singing lessons) was arrested for assault and jailed for 45 days. His older brother, Donnie, stayed with the band. "He got rich and I went to jail," Mark likes to say now.

The former Boston street thug relished the idea of playing someone who's on the right side of the law in "The Departed."

"To be the one applying the handcuffs instead of having them put it on me was certainly a nice change," he remarked to laughter. "At one point, I was sitting in my trailer and we were right in my old neighborhood—that was a bit surreal. There's no better situation than having an opportunity to do something that relates to the hard upbringing that I had in Boston and to be able to do it with Martin Scorsese."

He continued, "I really consider the first 18, 19 years of my life as the first part of my preparation for the role (laughter). I was pretty good at spotting undercover cops. But now, it really is a whole other thing. There are men, women, young and old—it's pretty scary stuff. I am glad that I am not doing anything illegal anymore (laughter) because they're pretty good at what they do."

Perhaps fatherhood has really transformed Marky Mark into a budding Saint Mark.

With his companion since 2001, model and actress Rhea Durham, he has two kids—Ella Rae, 3, and Michael, six months.

Church-goer

"I didn't like the law when I was on the wrong side of it but now obviously I realize how important it is," he stressed. "I've got two young children. I want you to know I just went to church today. When I'm traveling, I go to churches in different places. I want nothing but good for everybody. I want everybody to be happy, loving, caring and kind. I want my children and everybody else to be safe."

While the 35-year-old former Calvin Klein model said, "Lack of parental supervision allowed me to run astray and get into trouble," he does not harbor any grudge against his parents.

He said, "My mom and dad were separated. I'm the youngest of nine kids. They had to work hard to pay the rent. I was left to my own devices. But my parents cared about me. I don't hold anything against them. Under the circumstances, they did an amazing job. I credit them for my success."

Despite their rough growing-up years, Mark and Donnie got their first taste of success with their musical careers. "We were always into music," Mark explained.

He also credited his hard upbringing for helping him hone his acting skills: "I was always playing make-believe in whatever situation I was in. I was always bullshitting my way in and out of trouble."

Look what acting to get himself out of sticky situations has taken him: a role in a fine film like "The Departed."

"I want to be in a Scorsese movie," he admitted. "I want it to be like the ones I grew up loving. So I went to the set and did what he (Scorsese) asked of me. Fortunately for me, he asked me to do whatever I wanted. He allowed me to improvise and come up with the best insults I could come up with, which is fairly easy because that's how I grew up and that's how my mom and dad talk (laughter)."

Like Leo and Matt, Mark had interesting observations about the great director: "Martin has

A NEW/ F2

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1 FLY BOYS
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 ZOOM
5 THE BREED
6 INGRATA
PREMIERE CINEMA
FIRST DAY HIGH
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
DEAD OR ALIVE
CENTERSTAGE
STEP UP
CINEMA 1
FLY BOYS
CINEMA 2
ZOOM
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 CRANK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 FLY BOYS
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 POSSESSED BY EVIL
6 STEP UP
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 FIRST DAY HIGH
9 INGRATA
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 THE BREED
12 ZOOM

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 FLY BOYS
2 ZOOM
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 STEP UP
6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
7 INGRATA
8 WICKER MAN
9 DEAD OR ALIVE
10 FIRST DAY HIGH
11 YOU ARE THE ONE
12 THE BREED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 INGRATA
2 THE BREED
3 CRANK
4 FLY BOYS
5 STEP UP
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 ZOOM
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 POSSESSED BY EVIL
11 ETERNITY
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 ZOOM
3 FLY BOYS
4 STEP UP
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
6 WICKER MAN
7 THE BREED
8 INGRATA
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 CRANK

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 ZOOM
3 STEP UP
4 FLY BOYS
5 THE BREED
6 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 ZOOM
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 STEP UP
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 THE BREED
8 FLY BOYS
9 INGRATA

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 FLY BOYS
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 INGRATA
2 POSSESSED BY EVIL
3 STEP UP
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 ZOOM
6 FLY BOYS
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 CRANK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 THE BREED
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 WICKER MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 SCOOP
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 ZOOM

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 ZOOM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE BREED

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1 INGRATA
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3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 ZOOM
5 FLY BOYS
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ZOOM
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 WICKER MAN
4 SCOOP
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 CRANK

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037681-85
1 WICKER MAN
2 ZOOM
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
5 INGRATA
6 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY LIPA
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

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1 ZOOM
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 FLY BOYS
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 ZOOM

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 CRANK
4 ZOOM
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 INGRATA
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 WICKER MAN

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1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 RESERVED
3 CRANK
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 ZOOM
7 RESERVED
8 WICKER MAN

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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 INGRATA
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 WICKER MAN
6 ZOOM

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1 ZOOM
MTRCB GP
1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

2 FLYBOYS
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00 00, 10:00

3 FIRST DAY HIGH
MTRCB GP
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50

4 STEP-UP
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
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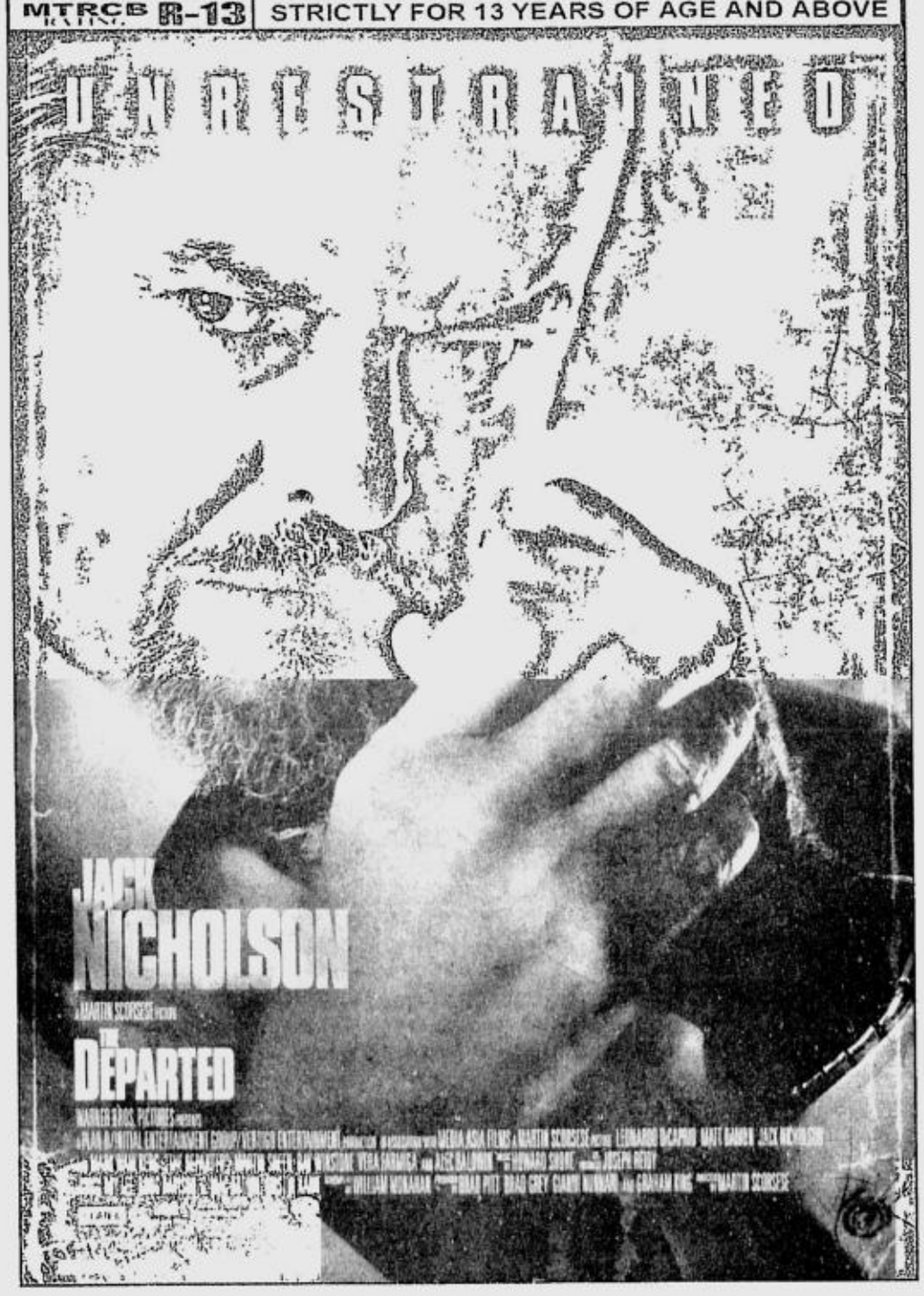

UNRESTRAINED
JACK NICHOLSON
MARTIN SCORSESE PRESENTS
THE DEPARTED
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A New York . . .

From page F1

a simple way of communicating. Away from the set, he'll talk for hours and tell you about anything. He has such a vast knowledge of cinema and religion. You name it, he seems to know about it. But on the set, it's very simple. He'll just whisper a couple of things in my ear. If we were doing a fight scene, he'd make sure everybody was okay and then he'd come and tell me to do more. But he would tell them (the other actors) that I'm going to do a little less. He'd push me a little bit harder. This was the reason why I did the film. I wasn't going to be able to do it but he said, 'I want you to do it.'"

And he also has amusing things to say about his veteran co-star Jack Nicholson.

"I've seen Jack on the golf course many times," he recalled. "It's far more interesting to see him on the golf course than on the set. Jack is a crazy man, with the golf club incident (the infamous incident in which he smashed a man's car window with a golf club) and everything. Jack's got some sort of weapon on him at all times (laughter)."

Smiling, he added, "Jack and Alec (Baldwin, who is also in the star-studded cast) are crazy. We're all crazy. There's no doubt about it. I always say to myself, the last thing I am going to be is end up like these guys (laughing). But the older I get, the more I start being like them. I'm like, 'Oh my God, this is bad news. It's happening.'"

Baptisms

Mark's mention of going to church, of course, piqued the reporters' curiosity, religion being such a "novel" topic in Hollywood.

"To me, religion means everything," he emphasized. "I look forward to seeing my son and wife being baptized." Mark's priest from his childhood was scheduled to perform the baptism the following day after our interview. "My son's mom has never been baptized so she's also being baptized. It's an exciting moment."

Are he and Rhea considering getting married? "Possibly," he replied. "We start with the baptismal first (laughter) and then take it from there."

Asked to name his favorite Scorsese movie, Mark responded, "I have so many favorites. 'Raging Bull,' 'GoodFellas,' 'Mean Streets,' 'Casino.' You should ask me if there's a Scorsese movie that I don't like and I would have to spend a lot of time trying to figure it out. I think other than the 'religious' movie that he made that I wouldn't see ..."

Could "that 'religious' movie" be the controversial "The Last Temptation of Christ"?

"Yes," came the reply.

After initially saying, "No 'Last Temptation' discussions," Mark gave in after another reporter asked him if he had discussed that film with Martin.

He explained, "Look, I don't even know if it's bad. I know my priest didn't love it. But that doesn't mean I wouldn't like it. I just prefer to see positive things on pretty much everything, whether it has something to do with religion or anything else."

Certainly fitting that mold was Mark's recent surprise hit, "Invincible," an inspiring sports movie from Disney.

Mark volunteered, "It's the first movie that my nieces and

A NEW/ F3

A New York Sunday with Matt, Mark and Martin (and Leo, too)

From page F2

nephews got to see and nobody had to cover their eyes or ears (laughter). Now, I'm back to all the bad words."

Since he's the co-creator and executive producer of the hit HBO comedy series "Entourage," Mark was asked about his posse.

"Normally it's just two people," he said. "If I don't come with a big entourage, people are disappointed (laughter). God forbid that I show up with just my girl, baby and nanny. The people will be disappointed."

Summing up, he declared, "Thirty-five years into my life, there are two things (that changed me). Certainly, going to jail was one. And when I started to have success, I had a tendency to put my guard down a little bit. Dealing with everyday life is hard. I mean, there's a lot of temptation. I have to be patient with people. I am really trying to grow. Becoming a parent was really like another kick in the ass. It was like, OK, now, it's not about you anymore."

Martin Scorsese

Mark was right on about Martin—the director can talk for hours. But who's complaining? Although in our prior interview with him for "The Aviator," Martin's answer to our question was so long (when it was transcribed, it ran to two pages—single-spaced). We worried that our time with him was over just from his answer to my question.

Martin always answers questions enthusiastically, and with a smile as constant as his black-framed glasses and bushy eyebrows. He has a rich, hearty laughter.

Told that several of the actors working with him for the first time expressed awe at how quiet it could be on the set of a Scorsese movie, he explained, "I do ask for everyone to be as quiet as possible. One can't imagine the noise on a set—building, sawing, banging, people talking loudly. Actually, I allow that noise for a while but at a certain point, I simply have to get it quiet so I can converse with the director of photography and particularly, the actors. I don't mind if the actors are making noise, laughing, joking, arguing, whatever. That's part of their process. But for me, I prefer that the crew work in quieter tones. So the actors, who are really the life of the film for me, will feel free and confident."

Jack's unpredictability

A question about how the unpredictability of Jack Nicholson dictated more flexibility in the script led to Martin's explanation of the origin of Robert De Niro's classic "You talkin' to me?" line in "Taxi

A NEW/ F4

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		ZOOM 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

MALL 5

ZOOM 12:10 R5 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	FLYBOYS 11:40 / 2:40 / 5:40 / 8:40	DEAD OR ALIVE 12:20 / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 / 8:40
POSSESSED BY EVIL 1:00 / 3:25 / 5:50 / 8:20	FIRST DAY HIGH 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

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Franklin D. Roosevelt's epiphany revealed in 'Warm Springs'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOsevelt's disability couldn't stop him from becoming a great American president, according to the HBO biopic "Warm Springs."

It was actually instrumental to his development. It led him to a deeper understanding of Americans' different problems while seeking treatment at a Georgia health spa, back in the 1920s.

TAKE FIVE

The TV-movie sheds light on the transformations of Roosevelt (played by Kenneth Branagh) and his wife Eleanor (Cynthia Nixon, formerly of "Sex and the City") during his trying bout with polio and recreates the crucial but rarely discussed period prior to his presidency.

"Warm Springs" earned several Emmys in 2005, including Outstanding Art Direction for a Miniseries or Movie, Outstanding Made for Television Movie as well as Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or Movie for Jane Alexander's portrayal of Sara Roosevelt.

Writer Margaret Nagle recently shared in a phone interview that "Warm Springs" was extensively researched and backed up by various documents, letters and journals. Story details were also double-checked by HBO's team of researchers to ensure that her script was indeed based on facts.

To make it feel even more authentic, scenes were shot at the Warm Springs facility in Georgia. The mineral pool that Roosevelt swam in and the cottage he used decades ago were also incorporated into the movie. Nagle also revealed that she was intrigued by the story because it reflected her own family's struggles.

BRANAGH as FDR and Nixon as Eleanor (right): Dynamic duo

Your brother Charles was partly your inspiration for writing "Warm Springs." Was it difficult to draw from his situation?

It was really easy, actually. My family, like Franklin's family, are really private people. We never talked about what happened to my brother or his disability. My mother always said, 'he's just like us.' It happened when he was very little. His brain stem was severed in a car accident; he was in a coma. He had to be taught again to swallow, blink, walk, talk. He does all these things now. We were never allowed to treat him differently, to feel sorry for him or ourselves. I shared a room with him growing up. The things he accomplished never seemed so remarkable to me until I stepped out into the real world.

So that firsthand knowledge proved useful when you started writing?

When I discovered that Franklin was a paraplegic—paralyzed from the waist down—I went, 'oh, wait a second, I really wanna write about this.' This is quite interesting to me; I understand the family dynamics here. The way the Roosevelts dealt with it reminds me of the way my family dealt with it. They say that you should always write what you know. I knew the story very well because I had lived it myself. When you love someone who becomes disabled, it's a very intense journey that you go on. The whole family becomes disabled. It was important to me how Eleanor and the children changed. Eleanor went through such a transformation. She and Franklin suddenly went on parallel journeys.

How satisfied were you with your script's translation?

The director is 80 years old. When I met Joe Sargent—he directed a lot of great movies, like "Something the Lord Made" and "Mrs. Evers' Boys"—I said, 'Oh God, you're old enough to have voted for FDR!' And it's true, he had! So we joked around a lot. Joe cast it beautifully. He found these amazing film faces. He chose all those actors. Joe did a great job; he's a wonderful man. As for the look of the film, Robbie Greenberg was our cinematographer—a very talented man. He suffused it with a very beautiful natural light. The whole movie was practically shot outdoors.

Please describe Branagh and Nixon's work.

They're really a dynamic duo. It's so important that whoever you cast as Eleanor had to be able to go up against Kenneth. He's a formidable actor, a formidable presence; you needed someone who can really take him on and get under his skin. Cynthia did that brilliantly. They were amazing and they fed one another. They're so different from one another and their complex dynamics brought out so much in the story. Also, I love David Paymer; I wrote the aide Louis Howe with him in mind. I also wrote therapist Helena Mahoney with Kathy Bates in mind. I was thrilled with the actors; they worked so hard and got along so well.

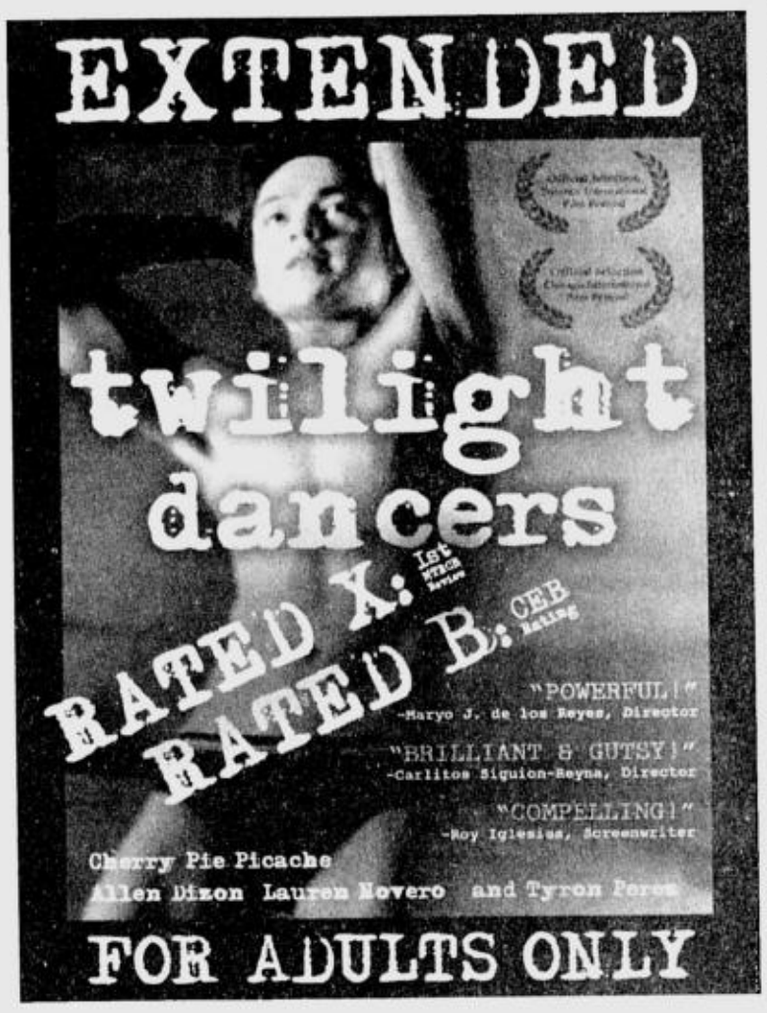
How important was this period in Franklin Roosevelt's life?

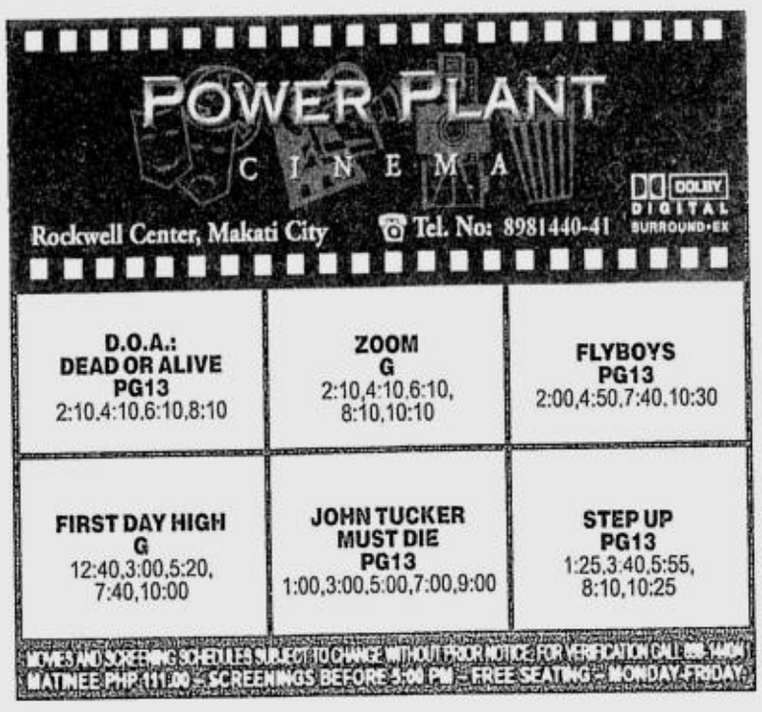
He went to Warm Springs in search of a miracle. There was one, but it wasn't the one he hoped for. He discovered that he could lead. The worst thing that ever happened to him became one of the best things that could've ever happened to him. By understanding this terrible tragedy that had befallen him, he realized that it wasn't such a big tragedy. He came to Warm Springs and saw poverty, racism, illiteracy and famine, problems that were far worse.

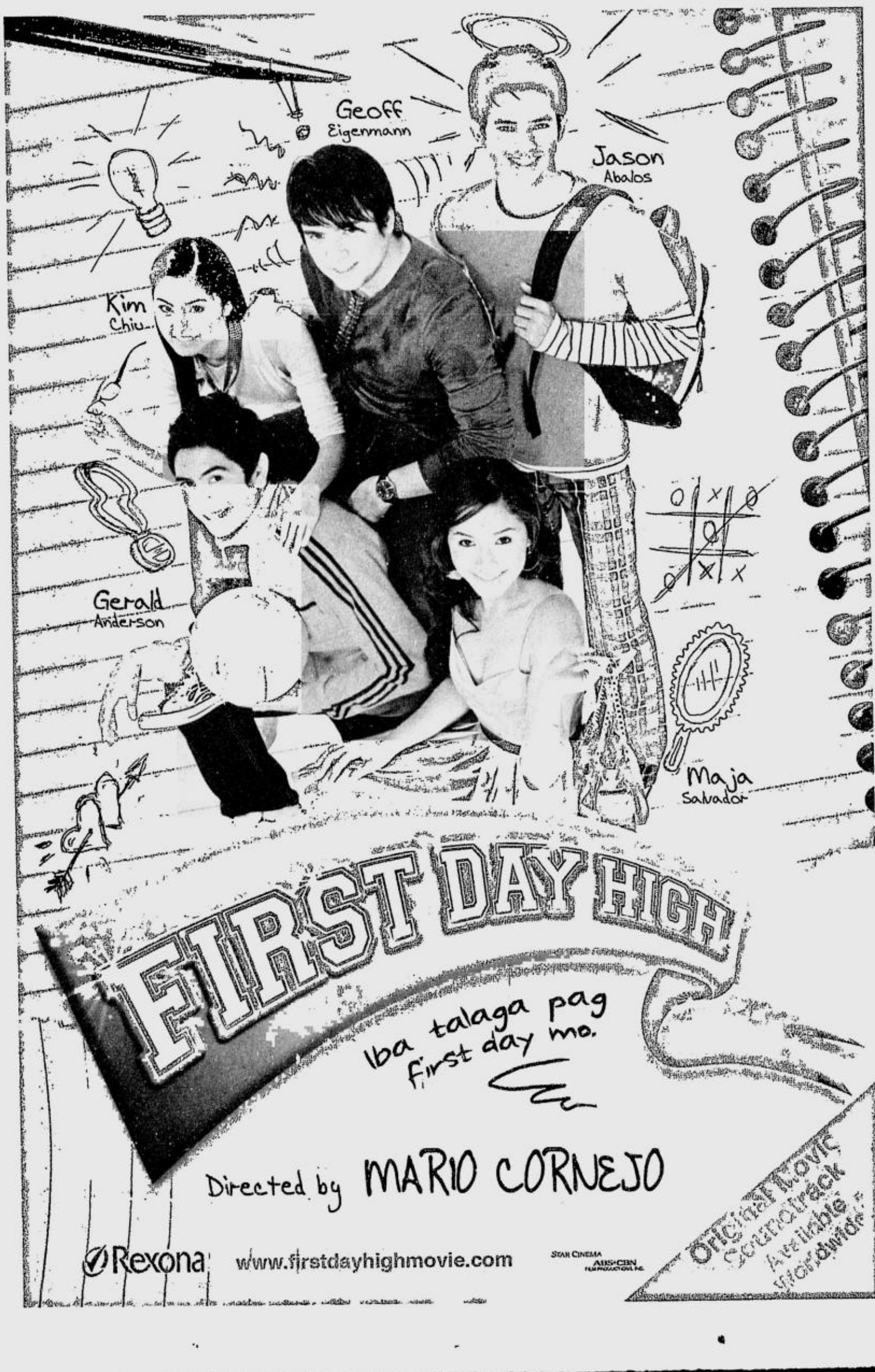
And people eventually believed in his leadership.

It allowed him to be a great president at a very difficult time in the history of the world. The miracle translated in many levels. We cure one other, if we can allow ourselves to be close to one another. His journey was a heroic one, almost Greek and mythic. And yet it was a deeply personal one at the same time.

("Warm Springs" premieres Oct. 3 at 10 p.m. on HBO.)







A New York Sunday ...

From page F3

Driver."

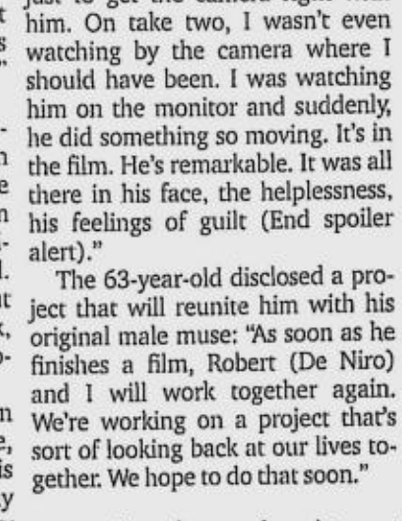
He said, "A picture like 'GoodFellas' has a very tight script. In other films such as this one, 'Gangs of New York,' 'New York, New York' and some scenes from 'Raging Bull,' we were able to improvise more freely. Certain actors like Jack came up with ideas, the ideas then set off a series of other thoughts in other actors, which changed the next scenes and actually created new scenes. On 'Taxi Driver,' the only place we played with the script was when I asked De Niro to please say something in front of the mirror (laughter). That was not written in the great script. Bob said, 'What should I say?' I said, 'I don't know.' He started looking at himself with the gun and he started talking to himself. 'You talkin' to me?' came out of that (laughter)."

Three decades of "Taxi"

When Martin was reminded that "Taxi Driver" marks its 30th anniversary this year, he massaged his temples, in seeming disbelief at how long ago he made one of his landmark films. "Thirty years ..." he muttered.

Playing around with "The Departed" title, a writer asked Martin what he has done that was the most significant departure from his norm. "I tried to direct a musical," he answered and laughed. "It's very hard to do. It came out some other way. It was 'New York, New York.' I don't know what happened."

Of Leonardo, who has been tagged as Martin's new male muse, the father of three girls said, "Leo is very open and—how should I say it—'workable' with me. He's very flexible. Yesterday, he said I'm sort



MARTIN Scorsese

of like a mentor to him. I never thought of that but maybe that's what it is. He'll go anywhere and I have to tell you—he'll go anywhere emotionally. (Warning: spoiler alert) The scene where Captain Queenan (Martin Sheen's character) falls off the roof was very hard to shoot for many reasons. There were all kinds of problems. We had to have Leo's reaction as Queenan's body hit the ground. I did take one just to get the camera right with him. On take two, I wasn't even watching by the camera where I should have been. I was watching him on the monitor and suddenly, he did something so moving. It's in the film. He's remarkable. It was all there in his face, the helplessness, his feelings of guilt (End spoiler alert)."

The 63-year-old disclosed a project that will reunite him with his original male muse: "As soon as he finishes a film, Robert (De Niro) and I will work together again. We're working on a project that's sort of looking back at our lives together. We hope to do that soon."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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3 FLYBOYS
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PG-13

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GP

Jolina talks about marriage

Text and photo by Nini Valera

JOLINA MAGDANGAL ADmits that she and boyfriend Bebong Muñoz have plans of settling down but they have set these aside to give way to a grueling political campaign.

Speaking in Filipino, Jolina brushed off speculations that marriage is just around the corner, saying it could get in the way of Bebong's planned foray into politics.

"It's difficult to plan both a wedding and run a campaign," Jolina told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday.

The couple has been making the rounds of barangay units in Caloocan City, Bebong's bailiwick, to touch base with his constituents.

Jolina described these immersion activities as similar to mall concerts.

"In both events, people are involved, and they want to get near you," she said. "The difference in political events is that I'm there not merely to entertain but to listen to the people. Of course, I'm just in the background. It's really Bebong who should take center stage."

The 28-year-old actress said she was aware that people might think that Bebong, her boyfriend of five years, is merely using their relationship for political purposes.

"Of course, I know there's that factor," she said. "I can't help it. Even if people say that I'm being used, so what? Who would look out for us except each other?"

Jolina vowed to be always by Bebong's side. This early, she has made it her duty to prepare Bebong's utility kit, stocking it with supplies to ensure that he'll always look neat during sorties.

Bebong has yet to formally propose marriage, Jolina said.

"I wish I could propose to him instead," she joked. "No, he hasn't given me any ring yet. Otherwise, it would be on my finger. Definitely, there would be a wedding. We just haven't set a date and discussed details yet."

But US-based Bebong came home two months ago not so much to launch a political career as to spend more time with Jolina.

"His main reason for coming back was for us to be together," she said. "We miss doing so many things as a couple already, like going out on dates or just walking together. We want to make our relationship stronger.

What about her show biz career?

"It would still go on," she said. "We talked about this and he wants me to do what I enjoy doing. He doesn't want me to be a plain housewife."

Jolina is in the cast of GMA 7's new horror special "Hoooo U?," which will air Sundays starting Oct. 8.

"This is not just a scare show," she said of the special, which also features Marvin Agustin, Patrick Garcia, Teri Onor and Princess Violago. "We added some comedy into it. Otherwise, we might scare the kids."

Zsazsa on a warpath

She insists: 'I'm not anorexic; just overworked'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

JUST LIKE THE GAY SUPERHEROINE SHE'S playing, singer-actress Zsa Zsa Padilla is in a fighting mood these days.

"I'm not anorexic. I was just overworked because I had to shuttle between two major projects (the ABS-CBN soap opera "Bituing Walang Ningning" and the Regal fantasy flick "Zsazsa Zaturnnah")," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview last Friday.

After winning Best Actress at the Luna Awards, Zsazsa has had to parry all sorts of nasty rumors concerning her health.

"No, I don't have an eating disorder. What I have is a congenital condition. I was born with a small ureter. Pediatric veins. That's why I've been having infections since I was young."

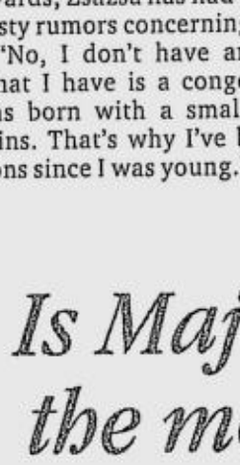
ZSAZSA/ G4

ZSAZSA Padilla

Is Maja on the move?

SO IS TEEN ACTRESS MAJA SALVADOR moving out of Star Magic, ABS-CBN's talent management firm, which co-manages her with Chit Ramos?

Sought for comment, Star Magic declined to issue an official statement. A network insider, however, explained that everything is still up in the air, that Salvador's two-year contract with Star Magic has ended and she has yet to renew it.



MAJA Salvador

This was confirmed by Ramos.

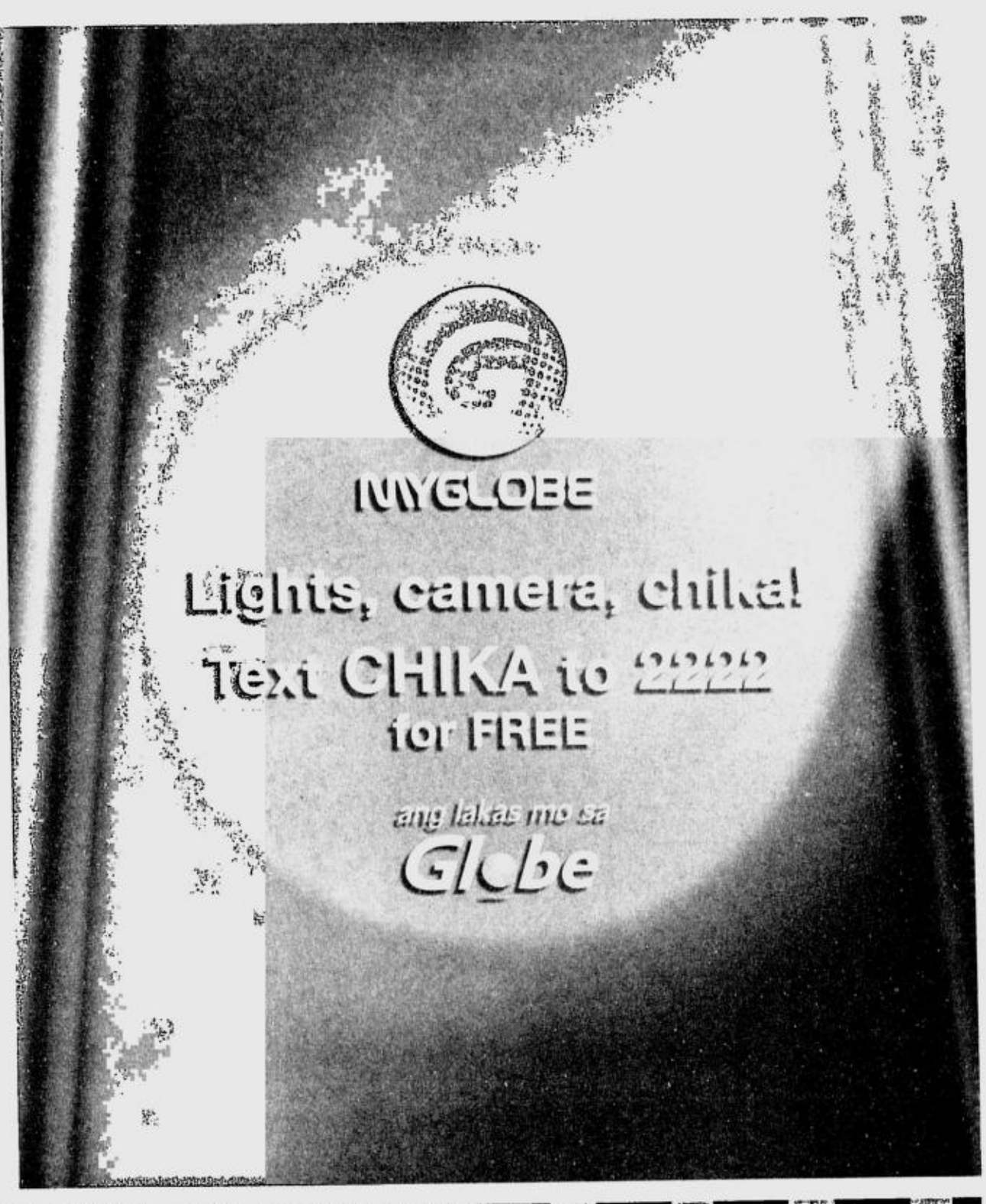
"Her contract with Star Magic expired last August, but it's not true that she's bolting from ABS-CBN," Ramos clarified. "In fact, I am set to renew her contract with Star Cinema (the network's film company)."

She also denied reports of Salvador's supposed transfer to Viva Films.

"If ever she was seen at the Viva office recently, it was only to personally deliver the invitation for her debut (set on Oct. 5) to Vic del Rosario."

Ramos explained that Salvador considers the Viva executive her "uncle," because

IS MAJA/ G3



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2 FIRST DAY HIGH
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3 FLY BOYS
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

4 ZOOM
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

5 POSSESSED BY EVIL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 VICTORY
2:00 4:00 6:00

7 DEAD OR ALIVE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

8 THE BREED
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

9 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7800 to 12

1 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

3 ZOOM
12:20 2:20 4:40 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 FLY BOYS
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5 DEAD OR ALIVE
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6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

7 STEP UP 11:45 1:45 3:45
THE BREED 6:00 8:00 9:50

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1 THE BREED
1 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 FIRST DAY HIGH
11.15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:10

3 CRANK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

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8 STEP UP
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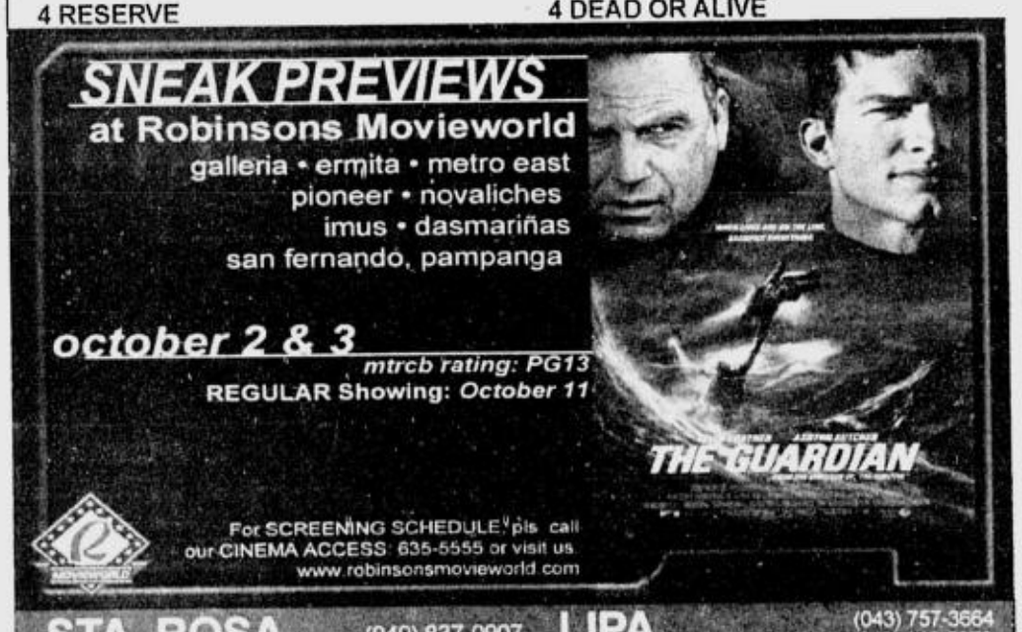
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 DEAD OR ALIVE



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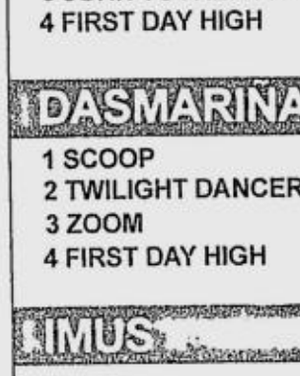

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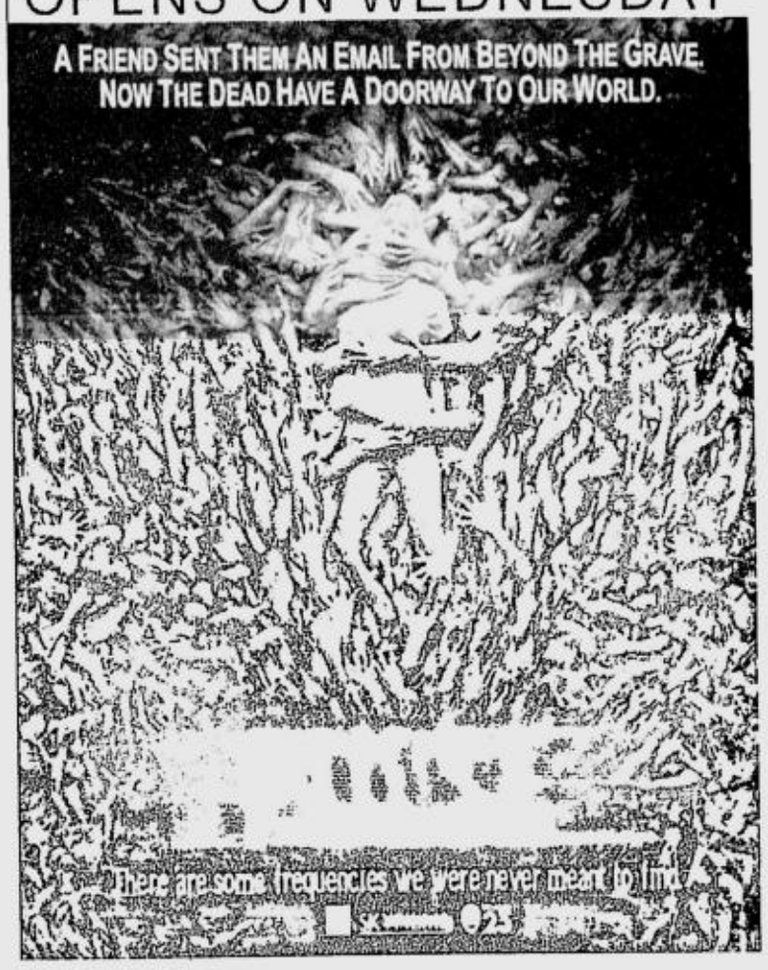

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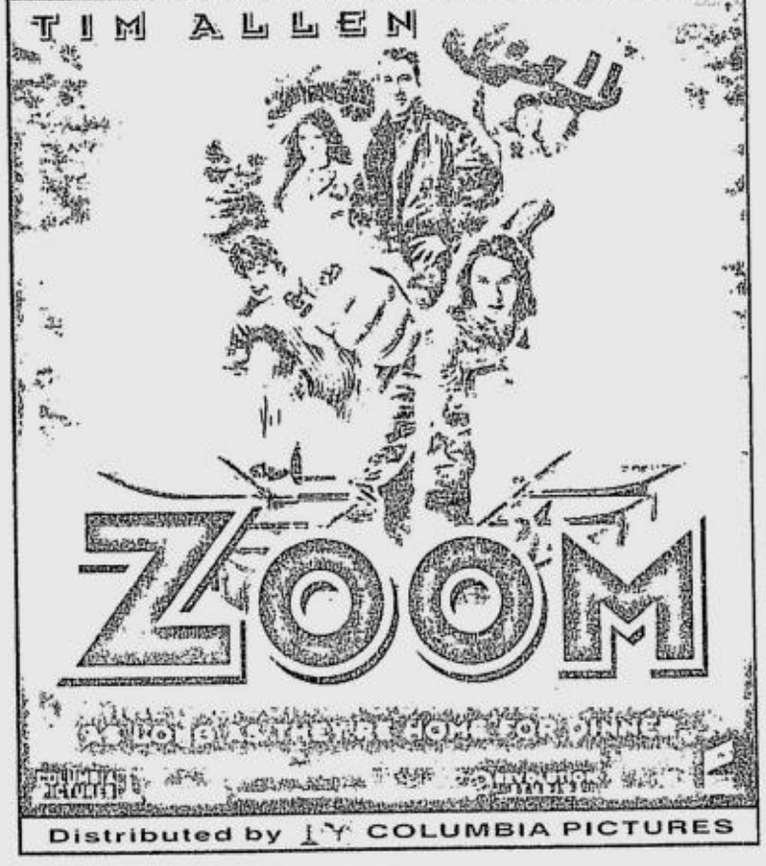

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Sheryl Cruz on Lovi: 'She's a very nice girl'

By Nini Valera

SHERYL CRUZ DOES NOT FEEl uncomfortable working with Lovi Poe, youngest daughter of her aunt Susan Roces' husband, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., by former model Rowena Moran.

The two are in the cast of GMA 7's "Bakekang."

"Part of my job as an actress is being in situations I can't control," Sheryl told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I don't feel weird working with her. I'm very happy for Lovi because I know she really wants to be an actress—a good one—and to excel in singing and dancing."

Sheryl said the first time she met Lovi was during FPJ's wake in 2004. The second encounter was at a screening of "Aguila," one of FPJ's movies shown in a retrospective of his works last year.

"She approached me *naman*," said Sheryl of Lovi. "She greeted me, and I acknowledged her greeting. I think she's a nice girl."

Their third meeting was during the promo work for "Bakekang." But they have yet to work on a scene together.

So far, it's only been "hi" or "hello" for Sheryl and Lovi.

"We haven't really talked," she said. "People have different comfort zones and I'm not one to pry, nor am I one to open up. If that time comes, I'd cross that bridge when I get there. But I can't really predict what would happen next."

But Sheryl admitted she is uncomfortable with what has been reported in the press about Lovi's relationship with FPJ, especially about the girl's memories of her father, which had been dismissed by some entertainment writers as mere fabrication.

"I really have no knowledge (about the issues)," said Sheryl. "I don't want to say anything about something that I do not know. I'd rather keep mum about it."

Sheryl is happy to be back on TV for the prime time series even if it means she would be spending most of her time here than in the United States with husband Norman Bustos.

"He's happy for me,'" she said of Norman, with whom she has a five-year-old daughter, Ashley.

"He knows that acting is my first love and he understands the demands of a prime time show. Unlike my last soap, 'Tinig,' which was for daytime, I need to spend a lot more time on 'Bakekang.' That's why I'm so blessed I have a husband who's supportive of me."

SHERYL Cruz

For the first time on television, Sheryl is playing the *contravida* Valeria, who's creating most of the trouble for Bakekang, played by Sunshine Dizon.

"I find the role very challenging," she said of Valeria. "It's rare for me to be cast as the villainess."

The first thing Sheryl did to prepare for the role was to lose weight.

The acting came naturally.

Is Maja on the move?

From page G1

he was the partner of the late Mina Aragon, her aunt.

Salvador's father is actor Ross Rival, Aragon's brother.

If Viva is cooking up a deal for Salvador, said Ramos, "it's not a new movie or TV show, but it's a 'special project' that will showcase her other talents."

Ramos, however, confirmed that she had earlier felt slighted after "Star Magic allowed Salvador to audition for a Joel Lamangan film under Regal Films, only to be told by Star Cinema that she couldn't accept it after passing the tryout."

Ramos said: "She had an option to do a movie outside Star Cinema, but it was for Imus, not Regal."

No complaints

But will Salvador still sign up with Star Magic?

"Yes. I am just waiting for Viva's special project to push through. After that, I will sit down with Star Magic again. I have no complaints about the way ABS-CBN is handling Maja's career. I should be thankful for all the big breaks they've been giving her—like two 'Maalaala Mo Kaya' episodes with Vilma Santos and uncle Phillip Salvador," Ramos pointed out. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

Stars without movies, movies without stars

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL SHOW BIZ TIMES AND CLIMES, they are a-changing—and how! Aspects of the entertainment scene that we used to take for granted 10 years ago are nowhere in sight, and startling new realities have drastically altered the lay of the land in show business.

For instance, many stars haven't acted in a film in years. Due to the Filipino industry's seven lean years (and counting), few films are being made, and even the bankable superstars of old have been crying their way to the bank—not to deposit, but to withdraw money to make up for their radically depleted income.

Many stars have been finding work on television, especially in the many *teleseryes* that now dominate the TV scene. But the parts they get to play are much less choice and challenging than the film roles they used to essay.

In fact, the TV wasteland is littered with the embarrassing performances of erstwhile acting greats who have been forced to play freaky gargoyles, viragos and glorified extras in the fantasy series that are the cat's whiskers on television these days.

Reinventing films

That's why we long for the day when the local movie industry shall have transformed and reinvented itself astutely enough for the dismayed audience to once again patronize its products, resulting in a substantial resumption of film production in this country.

Unfortunately, by the time that happens, it may be too late for 1990s stars to recover, because the thrust of local filmmaking has changed. Due to the industry's financial woes, expensive and star-oriented movies are "out," and they have been replaced by low-budget, digital independent films "starring" newcomers or veritable unknowns.

These "movies without stars" may not be doing all that well at the box office, but they now comprise the majority of feature-length films being produced in this country. A number of the new talents they showcase could become more popular in coming film seasons, and thus eventually upstage some established stars.

Yes, the likes of **Sharon Cuneta, Robin Padilla, Vilma Santos, Zsazsa Padilla, Nora Aunor, Maricel Soriano, Kris Aquino, Rufa Mae Quinto** and **Bong Revilla** continue to make movies every now and then, but most of their contemporaries have faded out of the big screen, which now showcases the youthful likes of **Piolo Pascual, Claudine Barretto, Jericho Rosales, Mark Herras, Sam Milby** and **Jennylyn Mercado.**

Some of them may not be as talented as yesterday's stars, but you can't argue with success at the box office, so luminaries whose stellar glow has ebbed need to work much harder to reestablish themselves as bankable players, in light of the new realities that obtain on the local filmmaking front.

Warner divas

THIS month, Warner Music Philippines showcases four of the hottest female acts today, each with an album of her own: **Paris Hilton**'s first musical compilation, "Paris," is a pop dance mix that flaunts the pop smarts of her musical idols.

Nina has a new album featuring her latest hit, "I Do." She goes from smooth R&B grooves and soulful jazz rhythms to laid-back acoustics, ballads and remakes.

With the release of her debut "Bad Boy/Next Selection" album, **Cassie** is building on the hit that was her debut single, "Me & U."

Lastly, **Madonna**'s new CD-DVD, "I'm Going to Tell You a Secret," contains spectacular performance footage and shares intimate glimpses of her life away from the spotlight.

Corrections

A READER has called to clarify that the "Pinoy Kamasutra" video does not include **Leilani Navarro**, as stated in its release. Leilani is now a singer and, while she's presently in the country, has stayed in the United States for years. The caller also shares that a look at the credits on the video itself shows that they list a **Leilani Vergara**, not Navarro.

Also, "Santa Santita" was produced, not by Star Cinema, as incorrectly stated here last week, but by Unitel Pictures. While the **Laurice Guillen** project was for a time considered for production by Star Cinema, it was Unitel that finally shot and screened it.

Zsazsa on a warpath

From page G1

According to Wikipedia, ureters are the ducts that carry urine from the kidneys to the urinary bladder.

To correct her condition, the doctor had recommended a ureter bypass, but Zsazsa had to delay the operation because of work commitments.

Finally, she is set to go under the knife on Oct. 18.

"I still have two shooting days on 'Zaturnnah'—on Oct. 11 and 13. Only after can I schedule the surgery which requires three weeks of recuperation," she clarified.

Lots of fluids

The doctor also ordered her to take in lots of fluids. "A minimum of three liters of water a day. I also drink lots of *buko* juice, a good diuretic. I used to drink more than I eat."

For that reason, plus the stressors of work, medication and impending surgery, she swiftly shed 15 pounds in a month and a half.

"But after 'Bituin' wrapped up taping, my schedule eased up a bit. So I got the chance to rest and resume my weight training. I've gained five pounds so far," she pointed out.

Zsazsa made a pact with her doctor: "That I should be back to my ideal weight, 120 pounds, before my surgery. I'm 115 now. So I only have five more pounds to go."

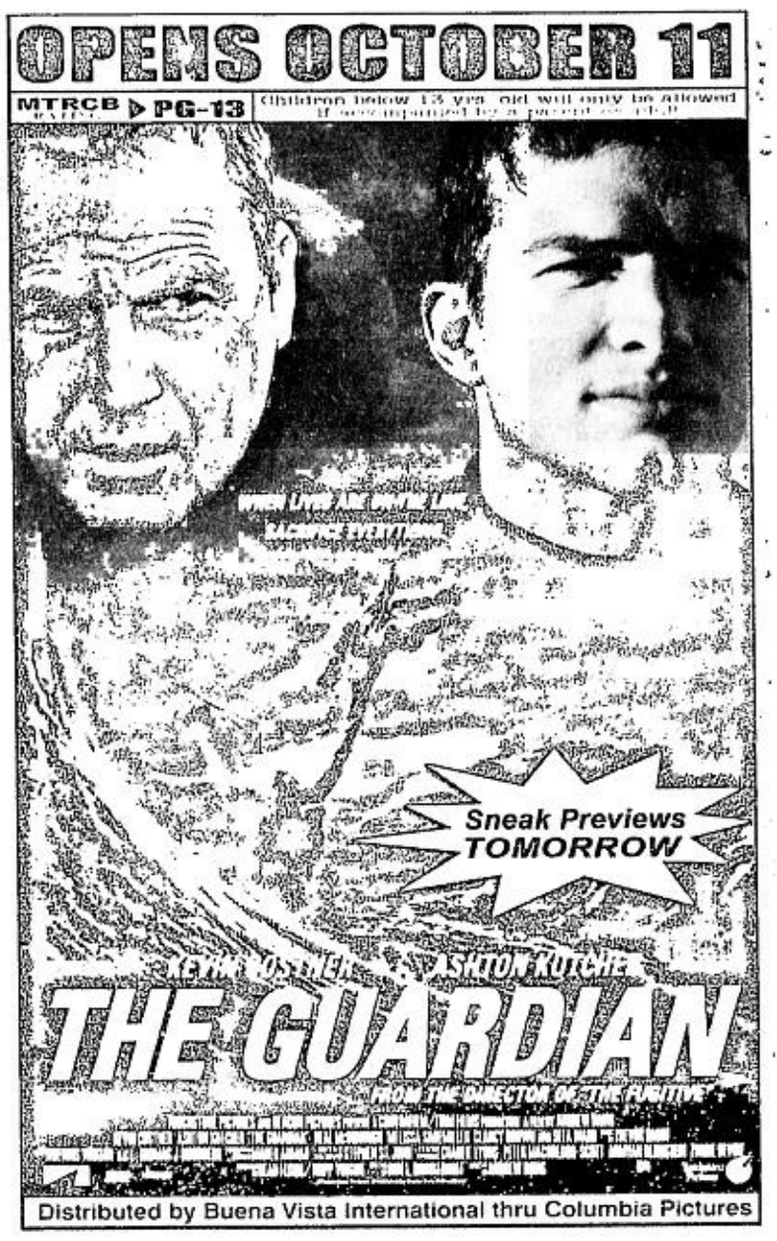
That she can easily gain "quality weight" is proof that she doesn't have an eating problem, she insisted.

Non-issue

"My weight shouldn't be an issue. I don't want to sound ungrateful to my home network, but I don't like what came out on (the ABS-CBN talk show) 'The Buzz' last week. I'm friends with ('Buzz' hosts) Boy (Abunda), Kris (Aquino) and Cristy (Fermin) and they've promised to help ... but the damage has been done. You shouldn't be too quick to brand people as anorexic."

As of press time, she has declined to guest on "The Buzz" and opted to answer the allegation on GMA 7, on its news and talk shows.

"I don't want to feed the system. You create an issue on your show so that you'll have something to talk about the following week? That's the oldest trick in the book. I'm not a newcomer in this business," Zsazsa fumed.



glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

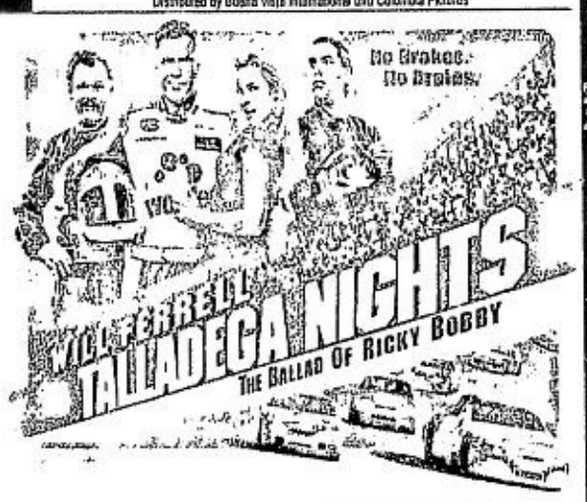
AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 ****

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE BREED	2 FLYBOYS	3 FIRST DAY HIGH	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS				
	4 STEP-UP	5 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	6 FIRST DAY HIGH	7 ZOOM			
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 FLYBOYS		2 YOU, ME & DUPREE				
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX FLYBOYS 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX STEP-UP 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS				
	3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ZOOM 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS				
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX ZOOM GUARANTEED SEATS	2 FLYBOYS					
	3 FIRST DAY HIGH	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	5 STEP-UP				
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 FLYBOYS	2 ZOOM	3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	4 FIRST DAY HIGH			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 FIRST DAY HIGH		2 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE				
	3 STEP-UP	4 FLYBOYS	5 ZOOM				

Be among the first to watch at regular admission prices
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
KEVIN COSTNER ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"
OCTOBER 2 (Mon.) & 3 (Tue.)
GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1 • ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
Regular run begins Oct. 11 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENS OCTOBER 4
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13
Ayala Malls CINEMAS glorietta



At the Activity Center

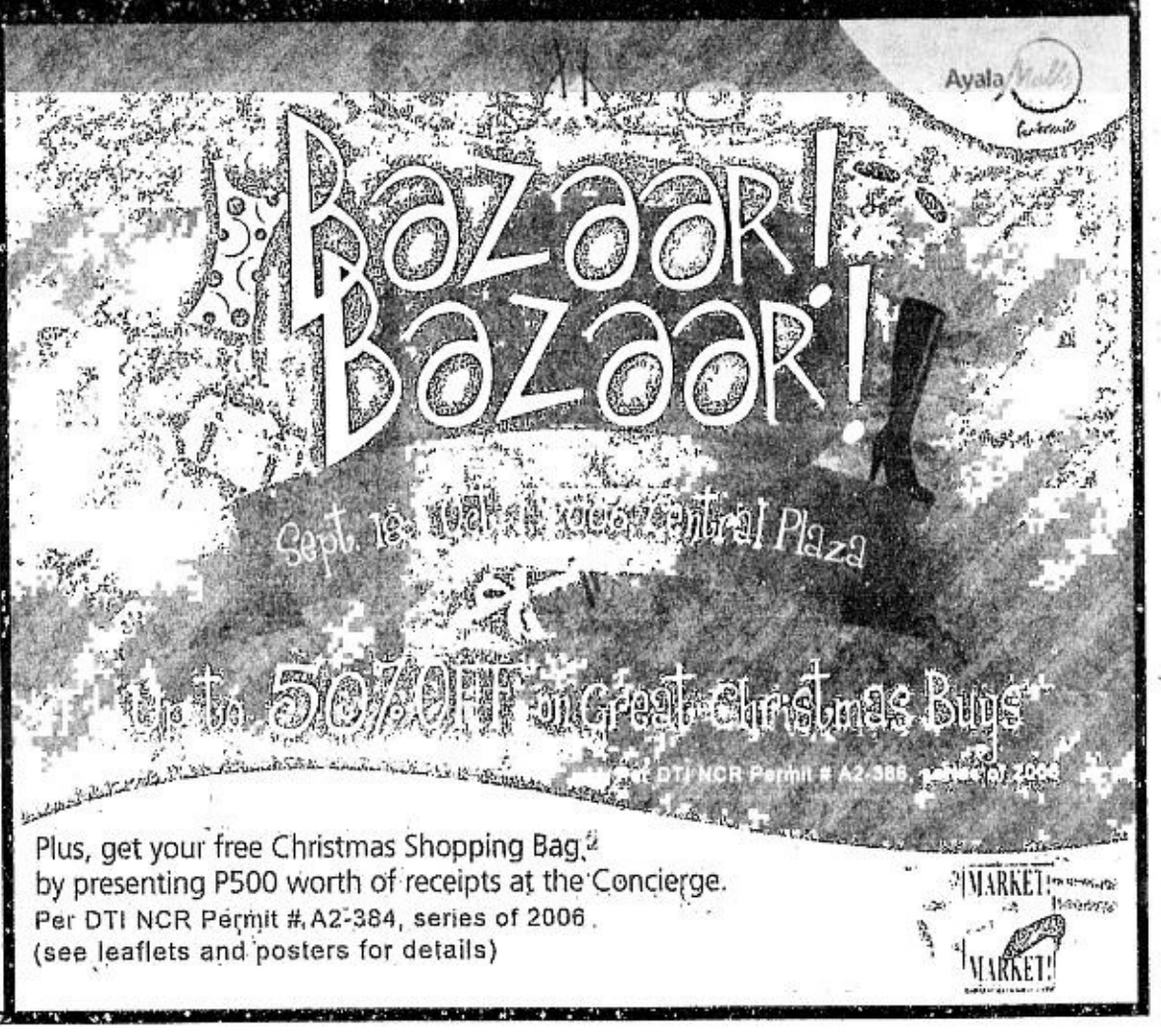
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm; Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn; Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm; Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324; Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Kraft Kids Camp October 1, 2006	Laguna Expo September 25 to October 1, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
USC Fashion Show October 1, 2006	Fashion & Fragrance Festival October 2 to 5, 2006

GREENBELT — Serendra Exhibit, October 1 to 15, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents THE BOOR & THE PROPOSAL at REP's Globe Theater - September 16 to October 8, 2006. For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Homecoming of 21st Asian International Art Exhibition Philippines, September 19 to October 1, 2006. For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



ROUNDUP

Music fest's best

AICELLE SANTOS, THE 21-YEAR-OLD "PINOY POP SUPERSTAR" year two grand finalist, won the Best Performance of Own Country Song, a major award in the annual Astana Music Festival held at the Astana, Kazakshtan.

Aicelle bested 14 other countries after her soulful performance of the song "Ba't Di Subukan (If We Hold On)" by Vehnee Saturno.

Last August, Jonalyn Viray and Brenan Espartinez, both products of "Pinoy Pop Superstar" year one, also bagged medals in the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Hollywood.

'Guardian' previews

"THE GUARDIAN," Touchstone Pictures' new action-adventure starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher, will have special sneak previews in selected cinemas tomorrow and Oct. 3.

In the film, legendary rescue swimmer Ben Randall (Costner) is sent to teach at "A" School, an elite training program for Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers, after losing his crew in a fatal crash.

Wrestling with the loss of his crew members, he throws himself into teaching, turning the program upside down with his unorthodox training methods.

Opening on Oct. 11, the film is distributed by Buena Vista International through Columbia Pictures.

'SOP' in Hawaii

"SOP," GMA's Sunday noontime variety show, delivers three solid hours of grand festivity when it invades Hawaii in SOP's "The Great Pacific Party."

Airing today, the show features Kapuso artists German Moreno, Janno Gibbs, Ogie Alcasid, Kempee de Leon, Rufa Mae Quinto, Dingdong Dantes, Karylle, Kyla, JayR, Jonalyn Viray, Gerald Santos and Ara Mina.

The show was taped from the Waikiki Shell, Kapiolani Park with 6,000 viewers participating and watching the show. The SOP's party is the grand launching of GMA Pinoy TV in Honolulu.

'Super Inggo' promo

ABS-CBN's *fantaserye* "Super Inggo" launches "Super Inggo, Super Panalo Texting Promo" tomorrow.

Lucky texters who answer the question of the day can win special gift packs with P10,000.

To join, texters can download the "Super Inggo" logo of the day and send their answers by texting SUPER <letter of answer> and sending it to 2366 (for example: SUPER A). Each download costs P15.

The promo, which is open to all Globe, Touch Mobile, Sun Cellular, Smart, Talk 'N Text and Addict Mobile subscribers, runs until Nov. 10.

'Teazz' party

KAMIKAZEE, Up Dharma Down and Protein Shake lead the "Teazz to Believe Launch Party," the launching of the new Green Teazz drink, at the Metrowalk Commercial Complex, Meralco Avenue, on Oct. 6.

Those who come in their most outrageous outfit could win one of three limited-edition Teazz iPods. Special edition Kamikazee CDs are also available for the first 500 attendees.

Details on how to get invites for a group of four are being aired on Magic 89.9, RX 93.1 or NU 107.5.

The making of 'Atlantika'

GMA premieres the prime time *telefantasya* "Atlantika" tomorrow night.

Tonight, viewers can have a peek into the secret kingdom in the heart of the ocean via "Atlantika: Ang Lihim ng Karagatan," a documentary produced by the award-winning team of "I-Witness."

The docu is an exclusive behind-the-scenes peek into the preparations made by the entire cast and crew in making the new TV series.

The cast is led by young stars Dingdong Dantes, Paolo Contis, Katrina Halili, Isabel Oli, Valerie Concepcion and Iza Calzado.

Also in the cast are Celia Rodriguez, Jean Garcia, Cherry Pie Picache, Ariel Rivera, Gardo Versoza, Mark Gil, Pen Medina and Rudy Fernandez.

'Kingdom of Heaven'

OSCAR-NOMINATED director Ridley Scott confronts hundreds of years of religious conflict in "The Kingdom of Heaven," an epic film set in Europe and the Middle East.

Orlando Bloom stars as Balian, a French blacksmith who becomes a knight under the tutelage of his estranged nobleman father, Godfrey of Ibelin (Liam Neeson).

A fragile peace prevails in Jerusalem, between the Second and Third Crusades, thanks to the efforts of its enlightened Christian king, Baldwin IV.

His vision of peace—a "kingdom of heaven,"—is shared by a handful of knights, his advisor Tiberias (Jeremy Irons) and the military restraint of the legendary Muslim leader Saladin (Ghassan Massoud).

The movie airs today and tomorrow and on Oct. 28 and 29 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies.

THE MOST-AWAITED ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR!
Robin Padilla Regine Velasquez
i never knew what love was...
Till i met you
A film by Mark A. Reyes (dgpi)
Text TILL to 4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text
OPENS OCTOBER 11
Pancit Canton
Mall Tour: SM Valenzuela: Oct.1, SM San Lazaro: Oct. 8, SM Bicutan: Oct.15
ONE OF THE GREATEST LOVE STORIES EVER TOLD IS BACK ON QTV!
Endless Love II
Winter Sonata
You never forget your first love
Muli kayong pakikiligin, paluluhain, at paiibigin ng tambalang Joseph at Janice sa kanilang 'di malilimutang kwento ng pag-ibig.
Simula na bukas, October 2!
Qtv Asian Mega Dramas
Monday - Friday, 6:30 PM
Endless Love II Irene Emperor of the Sea
Ch. 11 on VHF • Ch. 24 on SkyCable • Ch. 15 on Destiny Cable
Ch. 19 on Sun Cable • UHF Ch. 27 in Cebu and Davao

SOAPDISH

Repackaged 'Soapdish'

SPIN CITY

SOAPDISH HAS LAUNCHED ITS REPACKaged self-titled album under Viva Records, featuring "Nandito Lang Ako," written by lead guitarist and vocalist Jeff Bolivar.

The song is the theme of "Posh," a youth-oriented series on QTV 11.

Also on the album are 11 cuts that reflect the band's youth-oriented, edgy pop-rock sound.

"We wanted to do our own songs because we wanted people to get to know us, and the best way to do that was to have them listen to our original music," says Jeff, who writes most of the group's songs.

Sitti rhythm

SITTI

AFTER Sitti's debut album, "Café Bossa," reached platinum status, comes a follow-up CD called "Sitti Live," recorded during her live performance last May at the newly constructed Ortigas Park along Emerald Avenue.

The live selection showcases her performance of bossa nova classics that drew applause from a mixed crowd of young and old during the concert.

The CD is set to be launched on Oct. 3 at Tavern in Greenbelt.

Among the tracks in the album are "Waters of March," "For Your Eyes Only," "Fever," "Agua de Beber," "Samba Song" and the OPM bossa classic, "Ikaw Pa Rin," popularized by Tito Mina in the 1970s.

Instrumental album

NONOY Libanan

REP. Nonoy Libanan, a guitarist, has released an instrumental album titled "Music From The Heart" which contains cuts like "The Prayer," "Lyphard Melody," "Romance, How Could An Angel Break My Heart?" "Cavatina" and "Song For Anna."

The album is available in record stores nationwide.

Red Letter Day

THE NEW acoustic band, Red Letter Day, will be launched at The Lounge on Oct. 3 at 6 p.m.

The group is composed of Ianne Santos (vocals), Rommel Macam (lead guitar) and Tarys Santos (drummer/percussion).

Its debut album, "Stop, Look and Listen," carries 12 original compositions written and arranged by its lead guitarist.

The album, distributed by Ivory Music & Video Inc., is available in CDs in all music stores.

The group has been active in such joints as Mingle Bar, Tiendesitas, Café Nakpil, Mocha Blends, St. Francis Square, Seaside Macapagal and Dampa sa Libis.

Christmas release

THE CompanY has released its first Christmas collection after 13 years.

Titled "The Christmas Album," the CD will be launched with a special performance by the group on Oct. 8, 5 p.m. at the Shangri-La Mall.

The album, a Viva Records production, presents Yuletide classics and standards in an assortment of settings, flavors and rhythms.

The carrier single is "Isang Taong Lumipas," a collaboration between Ryan Cayabyab and Jose Javier Reyes.

'Crazy For You'

THE GROUP MichaelAngelo, composed of Michael Manahan on lead vocals and guitar and his brother Angelo on lead guitar and vocals, are the voices behind the theme song of ABS-CBN's "Crazy For You."

The pop-rock duo's "Wish" album will be repackaged to include the version of the '80s hit song this month.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006 H1

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- At least 2 years relevant experience
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Please call or email your resume to.

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info@atomic.net
09209030835
3rd Floor, Maga Center,
San Antonio Village, Makati City

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Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon

Republic of the Philippines
City of Olongapo
-o0o-
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Services Office, 2/F City Hall Complex
Tel./Fax No. 047-222-2699
Web: www.olongapocity.gov.ph
Email: Olongapo@pldt.net

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Olongapo, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites system integrators/ solution providers/distributors/contractors to apply for the eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

Name of Project	Hospital Information System (Local Area Network & Computerization)
Location	James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital, Olongapo City
Contract No	OC-103-JLGMH-030-06 GD
Brief Description	Provision of a fully integrated hospital information system which will satisfy the needs and facilitate the objectives for computerization of James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital
Approved Budget	Php 10,318,600.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding and have the key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using nondiscretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from the Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 11 of the Bidding Documents. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post qualification procedure.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
Sept. 28, 2006 to Oct. 19, 2006	Posted at GEPS Website & Conspicuous Places/Newspaper of Nationwide Circulation	
Oct. 12, 2006 to Oct. 17, 2006	Issuance of Bid Documents upon payment of non-refundable bid form fee of P22,500.00 - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM from the BAC Secretariat. Method of payment will be in cash	BAC Secretariat 2/F Gen. Services Office, Olongapo City Hall
Oct. 16, 2006	Pre-Bidding Conference at 10:00 a.m.	
Oct. 31, 2006	Opening of Bids at 3:00 pm	
Nov. 02 to 07, 2006	Bid Evaluation / Post Qualification	
Nov. 08, 2006	Notice of Awards	

The City Government of Olongapo reserves the right to accept and reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to cancel all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Further information may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, 2/F Olongapo City Hall.

(Sgd.) MERLITO J. MAJARUCON
Head, BAC Secretariat

NOTED BY:
(Sgd.) Atty. ANGELITO R. OROZCO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 8, 2006)

CREBA NATIONAL CONVENTION
John Hay Trade & Cultural Center, Baguio City
October 19-21, 2006

2006 CREBA NATIONAL CONVENTION
In cooperation with: HUDCC DOT BOI DFA Philippine Retirement Authority

"PROACTIVE RESPONSE TO PROPERTY TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES"

PROGRAM

DAY 1: 19 OCTOBER, Thursday
6 am CREBA Golf Tournament @ Baguio Country Club. Fee is P2,000 w/ food & raffles. Hole Sponsorship @ P10,000
9 am Registration / Courtesy Call & City Tour
2 pm **CONFERENCE on BOI & PEZA Incentives for Real Estate Devt Projects**
Speakers: BOI Usec. Elmer C. Hernandez, PEZA Dir. Gen. Lilia de Lima
4 pm Chapter Orientation Workshop
5 pm Opening of Exhibits & Sponsors' Night
7 pm Welcome Dinner & Talent Show

DAY 2: 20 OCTOBER, Friday
6 am Buffet Breakfast
9 am FORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES & KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Her Excellency **PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
12 nn North & South Railway System by DOTC Usec. Guiling Mamondiong
2 pm **CONFERENCE on Philippine Retirement & Tourism, Medical & Wellness Programs, and the Dual Citizenship Law**
Speakers: PRA Chairman Eduardo B. Aglipay, DOT Director Elizabeth Nelle, DFA Amb. Generoso Calonge
4 pm **Business Opportunities in Region One**
7 pm Gala Night with Region One's Govt Official, Regional Directors & the Academe, featuring the CREBA Chorale

DAY 3: 21 OCTOBER, Saturday
6 am Buffet Breakfast
9 am **CONFERENCE on how to access American Funding for Real Estate Devt**
Speaker: Mr. Juan Carlos Rivera-Montes, OPIC President

Pag-Ibig Funding Programs
Speaker: Atty. Romero F. S. Quimbo, President & CEO

12 nn LUNCHEON with the Honorable House Speaker **Jose C. De Venecia, Jr.**
2 pm PLENARY SESSION on resolutions & action plans for turn-over to concerned agencies
7 pm DANCE COMPETITION CHAMPIONSHIP AND RAFFLE

Sponsors:
BOYSEN PAINT, R-II Builders, Inc. Crown Asia Properties, V. V. Soliven Group, Duraville Group of Companies; Jomcret Trade & Development Corporation, Central Country Estates, Inc.; National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.; Prime Peak Properties; Federal Land; BPI Family Bank; Cityland, Inc.; DMCI Homes, Inc.; Homeowners Development Corporation

For inquiries, call (032) 373-2278 to 79

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- **Quantity/Cost Engineers**
- **Pavement Specialists**
- **Contract Specialists**
- **Environmentalists**
- **Social/Resettlement Experts**
- **AutoCAD Operators**

Applicants with minimum of 10-15 years experience in above positions preferably with Masteral/Post-Graduate Degrees are requested to send their detailed Curriculum Vitaé, email address, contact phone numbers, 2"x2" picture and photocopy of education/training certificates to:

P.O. Box 1754 MCPO
Makati City, Metro Manila
Philippines

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Region IX, Zamboanga Peninsula
J.H. CERILLES STATE COLLEGE
Mati, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur

VACANCY
THE PRESIDENT
JH CERILLES STATE COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of the JH Cerilles State College through BOT Resolution No. 35, S of 2006 announces the vacancy of the President of its State College and the Search for the Presidency of the JH Cerilles State College is now OPEN.

Minimum Qualifications:
- Must be a holder of an earned doctorate degree;
- Must have at least (5) years managerial and administrative experience in higher education institutions;
- Must be a natural-born Filipino citizen;
- Has not been convicted of criminal, civil or administrative charges.

Other Qualifications:
- Comprehensive Curriculum Vitae supported by certified documents;
- Transcripts of Records (TOR) and Diplomas of Degrees earned;
- Four (4) year Development Plan for the JH Cerilles State College including its vision and mission as well as the thrusts of the state college;
- NSO authenticated birth and marriage certificates;
- Clearances from the NBI, Civil Service Commission, Sandiganbayan, Ombudsman and the previous employer;
- Health Certificate duly accomplished and signed by a government physician;
- Letter authorizing the Search Committee to validate submitted documents

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit seven (7) sets of their formal application, certified documents and other pertinent papers in a sealed envelope. Original documents must also be submitted in a separate envelope for authentication of duplicates. Late submission and incomplete documents will automatically disqualify the applicant. All documents must be submitted on or before October 16, 2006, 5:00 PM to:

WENDELL GLENN P. CAGAPE, MAFS
Board Secretary V, JH Cerilles State College
Mati, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur
Tel. No. (062) 215-1645
Mobile: 09173242406

(Sgd.) WENDELL GLENN P. CAGAPE, MAFS
Board Secretary V

(PDI – Sept. 24 & Oct. 1, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P355,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00 in the form of *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Prospective bidders who secured the bidding documents for the failed bidding of September 19, 2006 are no longer required to pay anew the non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 for the bid documents.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 11, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th Floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on October 25, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *October 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — National Food Authority
Contact Person — Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No. — (632) 455-2758
E-mail address — vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Website — www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – September 24 & October 1, 2006)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILOILO

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Iloilo City invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project

Name of Project	Lease of Office Space
Project Location	Iloilo City
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 8,880,000.00
Contract Duration	2 years
Scope of Work	All lease payments including utilities shall be Translated as Tax credit in favor of winning Bidders.

The Schedule of Bidding Activities is as follows

Period for the Submission of Letter of Intent:	October 09-13, 2006
Period for the Submission of Eligibility Forms:	October 09-13, 2006
Period for the Issuance of Bid Documents:	October 23-27, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference at the City Budget Office Conference Room:	Nov. 03, 2006 at 10:00 AM
Last Day of Submission of Bids in Sealed Envelopes (c/o BAC Secretariat):	Nov. 14, 2006 at 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids in Sealed Envelopes at the City Budget Office Conference room:	Nov. 14, 2006 at 10:00 AM

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements may be obtained from the Office of the BAC Secretariat at the General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City. Duly accomplished Eligibility Forms shall be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat.

Eligible contractors may obtain the Bid Tender Documents at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (P 2,000.00) Pesos on the above prescribed period.

Prospective Bidders shall signify their conformance to the Bidding Terms and Conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/ execution. The criteria to be used by BAC in the Eligibility Check of Prospective Bidders shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

Executive Order No. 398, dated January 12, 2005, by the Office of the President under Sec. 3 – "To ensure continuing compliance with tax laws, all government contracts shall include a stipulation that the private contracting party shall pay taxes in full and on time and that failure to do so will entitle the government to suspend payment for any goods or services delivered by the private contracting party"

(PDI--Oct. 1, 2006)

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Contract Period : October 01, 2006 to December 31, 2006

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MR. ERNESTO S. GAÑA

At the following address and telephone numbers:

THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55
Local 253, 257, 258 and 340
Fax Number : 645-4535 and 646-9556
Cellular No. 0917-8050116

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AMY JALANDRA

A Warrant of Arrest has been issued by National Capital Judicial Region Metropolitan Trial Court of Makati City, Branch 62 (Criminal Case No. 322914-94) against **AMY JALANDRA** with last known address at 9-C La Salle Street Cubao, Quezon City. Any information on subject whereabout may be relayed to RUSTAN SUPERMARKETS 911-2360 or the nearest CIDG, NBI or PNP Station.

(PDI – October 1, 2006)

SMCM HS Batch '96 BIGaTENg reunion

MARIANS 1996 OF SAINT MARY'S College of Meycauayan High School Department are invited to the BIGaTENg Reunion (10 years in the making), a casual dinner party on Nov. 25, 2006 at Plaza Verde along McArthur Highway, Marilao, Bulacan. Alumni are also requested to send photographs during high school through Christian Andaya at christian.andaya@ senate.gov.ph, or Lawyer Ma. Jasmin Casaje at jasmincasaje@ yahoo.com. For further details and inquiries, you may get in touch with Ada Alcancia at fbalcancia@transco.ph or 09209608205.

Pasay City EH School Batch '74 grand reunion

PASAY CITY EAST HIGH SCHOOL BATCH '74 will hold its grand reunion on Dec. 2, 2006. For more information please call Amie Robles at 0918-302-1263; Ed Nimes 0920-222-9090; and Norma Bedaña 0928-329-2802.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ROBIN R. SERRANO

Notice is given to the public that the person whose name and picture appears above is no longer connected with LACSON & LACSON INSURANCE BROKERS, INC. Any transaction entered into by him for and on behalf of the company will not be honored.

(PDI–Oct. 1, 2006)

More Filipino construction workers needed in S. Arabia

MOHAMMAD AL-MOJIL GROUP (MMG), Middle East leader in construction industry, is keen in employing more Filipino workers this year for its onshore and offshore operation. Mohammad Al-Mojil Group (MMG), a 100% Saudi owned Group of Companies is listed among the Top 100 Companies in Saudi Arabia. In the past four and a half decades MMG has played a significant role in the industrialization and development programs that has transformed Saudi Arabia and the lives of its people. MMG has been instrumental in the realization of major construction projects initiated by leading national corporations such as the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) and Saudi Basic Industries Company (SABIC) as well as international engineering and construction companies.

As a result of the company's impeccable performance over the past four and a half decade, MMG has earned a reputation as one of the nation's leading construction contractors. Awarded and successfully completed contracts amounted to more that US $10 billion.

Over the years, MMG had diversified extensively from construction services to Offshore Services, Construction Services, Marine Services, Technical Services, Pipe & Steel Fabrication, Equipment Services, Industrial Material Supply and International Travel & Tourism.

MMG had been employing Filipino workers since 1970 and continued to employ as average of 4,000 to 5,000 Filipino workers per year. Some of MMG Filipino executives and engineers were in Saudi for more than 20 years. This year alone, MMG will employ more or less 8 thousand Filipino workers in various skills.

This year, MMG added to its benefit package a profit sharing scheme to all its workers regardless of level and position.

The MMG Profit Sharing scheme is being done as gesture of goodwill and gratitude. "It is my way of sharing my good fortune to the workers who were working with me in my endeavors". says MMG's owner Sheik Mohammad Al-Mojil. This outstanding gesture of Mr. Al-Mojil is worth emulating for by Filipino entrepreneurs.

Filipino workers are being recruited by its exclusive recruitment agency. LWV Construction Corporation who have established branches in Mindanao and Visayas to give access to Filipino applicants by not going to Manila just to apply.

7th annual symposium in Emergency Medicine held

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE of Makati Medical Center held its 7th Annual Symposium in Emergency Medicine on Sept. 27 - 28, at the SGV Hall of the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center at Benavidez corner Trasierra St., Makati. The highlight of this year's symposium is on "Pediatric Emergencies".

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Sports and Corporate Coach, Coachville Trained

Breakout #3: The Corporate Agenda in Coaching
SPEAKERS: LEA VILLANUEVA & ELYNOR ROQUE
HR Executives and Consultants, Life, Executive and Corporate Coaches

Breakout #4: "Moog Values and Philosophy Teams". Coaching Circles in the Shop Floor An actual corporate coaching experience
SPEAKER: EFREN ALBERTO
Corporate Executive, Internal Coach, PMAP Awardee

Breakout # 5: Coaching: The New Paradigm, the New Profession, the New Choice!
SPEAKER: MAY SORIANO
Coaches Training Institute (CTI) graduate, International Life, Executive and Corporate Coach

Breakout #6: Managers are Coaches, Have you Embraced that Reality?
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FOR HAVING COMPLIED WITH INTERNATIONAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT system standards, the National Transmission Corporation (Transco) represented by President and CEO Dr. Alan Ortiz (center) and VP Alexander Cortez (right) has been awarded with an ISO 9001:2000 certificate by independent auditor TUV Philippines represented by Systems Management Manager Carmina Esperon. The ISO certification was awarded to TransCo's Corporate Services Group which includes the office of the General Counsel, Power System Reliability Group, Corporate Planning Group, Finance Group, Administration Department, Human Resources Department, Corporate IS/IT Department, Security Department, Subtransmission Asset Divestment Department, Bids and Contracts Management Department, and Corporate Communication Division. "This international recognition reflects the serious efforts we put in place to continuously improve our processes and operational efficiency to better serve our customers and the end-consumers," Ortiz said. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) based in Geneva is a worldwide federation of 147 countries committed to providing assurance for quality, safety and reliability of products and services.

PNU sympo tackles perspectives on Charter Change

A UNIVERSITY SYMPO on "Multiple Perspectives on Charter Change" will be held today at the Philippine Normal University. Main speakers are Sen. Richard J. Gordon, Chair, Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Atty. Raul Lambino of Sigaw ng Bayan, Dr. Carol Araullo of Bayan and Mr. Fidel Fababier of Assert. Reactors are Prof. Rene Romero and Mr. Mark Anthony Olores, Student Regent. PNU President Barbo will welcome the participants which includes faculty members and students of the South Manila Inter-Institutional Consortium (SMI-IC). this activity is sponsorred by the Center for Linkages and Extension Services and the College of Arts and Social Sciences. For details, contact Prof. Rene C. Romero or Mr. Joel Atencio, Center for Linkages and Extension Services at Telefax 527-0367

OBITUARIES

JOSE LAZARO TUPAS

of Victorias, Negros Occidental
Managing Director of APT Trading & Supply

Joined his Creator last September 29, 2006 at the age of 57.

His bereaved wife **VIOLY**; children **JOYCE** & **DENNIS, ANDRO** and **JOVI ANN**; grandchild **IGGY**; mother **NANAY TRINING**; brothers **ALEX** and **VICTOR**; sister **TERESITA**, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches. There will be a 7:00 a.m. Mass. Departure at Arlington is at 8:00 a.m.

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ATTY. REYNALDO B. FERNANDEZ

of Buelag, Calasiao, Pangasinan and San Antonio Valley I, Parañaque City

February 9, 1949 – September 26, 2006

Interment : October 4, 2006, 8:00 a.m.
Buelag, Calasiao
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late
DR. ANTONIO A. SANTOS
who passed away peacefully on September 15, 2006
wish to convey our most profound gratitude to all who offered masses, prayers, sent messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled with us and comforted us.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

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CONDO/TWNHSE

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE
1.2M – Taytay Twnhse
Newly renovated twnhse, 2 storey concrete floorings, 2 brns upstairs with covered terrace, spacious sala, kitchen and laundry areas plus maid's quarter and carport on a 75sqms. Lot, Located at 18 Everlasting St., Cherryville Subd., San Juan Taytay, beside Golden City Homes and SM Taytay (underconstruction) Contact Manny 09178969535, Nancy 0915-6812551

LOT

CUYAMBAY, TANAY, RIZAL 12.2 HECTARES, CLEAN TITLE. On the corner of the Marikina/Infanta Hi-way and National Road going to Cuyambay proper. Gently rolling terrain. Fenced. P170/sq.m.
Call Beth 817-6522/815-2975/894-0301 Monday-Friday, office hours only or text only (0917) 527-2491.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is given that the Estate of the late EDUARDO R. LACBAY was settled extrajudicially with waiver by his heirs Per Doc. No. 4620 Page No. 924 Book No. X Series of 2006 of Notary Public Jose L. Alvarez Jr. Of San Pedro Laguna. (PDI Sept. 17,24 & Oct. 1, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ADELINA KNAPP-OLMEDO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC SOCRATES G. MARANAN OF MAKATI CITY AS PER DOC. # 473 PAGE #95 BOOK # XXXIX, SERIES OF 2006. (PDI SEPT. 17,24 & OCT. 1, 2006)

Notice is given that estate of SPS Dalisay & Idelfonso Alamo with TCT No T-40960 of the Rd of Cavite has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs Per Doc 419 Page 84 Book 48 Series 2006 Notarized Before Atty Fidencio Zerrudo.
PDI–Sept 17, 24 Oct. 1, 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF BRIGIDA OMAÑA JAVIER HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS AS PER DOC 193 PAGE 40 BOOK 28 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. NESTOR C. CRUZ OF CAINTA RIZAL (PDI-10/1, 8, 15 '06)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE
1.2M – Taytay Twnhse
Newly renovated twnhse, 2 storey concrete floorings, 2 brns upstairs with covered terrace, spacious sala, kitchen and laundry areas plus maid's quarter and carport on a 75sqms. Lot, Located at 18 Everlasting St., Cherryville Subd., San Juan Taytay, beside Golden City Homes and SM Taytay (underconstruction) Contact Manny 09178969535, Nancy 0915-6812551

LOT

CUYAMBAY, TANAY, RIZAL 12.2 HECTARES, CLEAN TITLE. On the corner of the Marikina/Infanta Hi-way and National Road going to Cuyambay proper. Gently rolling terrain. Fenced. P170/sq.m.
Call Beth 817-6522/815-2975/894-0301 Monday-Friday, office hours only or text only (0917) 527-2491.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RUPERTO C. GAITE has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 386, Page No. 78, Book No. I, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Juanito B. Almosa, Jr of Mandaluyong City
(Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PILAR JIMENEZ DE SILVA was extrajudicially settled with waiver among her heirs as per Doc. No. 295; Page No. 59; Book No. 10; Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Ferdinand M. Corpuz
(PDI-Sept 24, Oct 1 & 8,2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Ayala Corp. Stock Cert. No. CS-051853 with 480 shares and Stock Cert No. CS-051854 with 460 shares both issued to JOCELYN L. CHAN were lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Sept 24, Oct. 1 & 8, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that ORIENTAL PETROLEUM CORP. Stock Certificate 17510:28532,6899 for 909967 shares issued to CARMEN S. QUIAMBAO were lost.If no contest received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Oct. 1,8 &15,2006)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

If you're between 18 to 35 years old Join us to teach, in the outdoor, in the real world
Orientation is on October 12, 2006 University of the Philippines Hotel Diliman 5:00 p.m.
Land: (02) 453-4305, 454-6206, 951-9936
Mobile: 0916-6353967 or 0928-715-8806

Ecop pushes for expansion of program for students' employment

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) has expressed support on various bills in the Senate that seek to strengthen and expand the coverage of the special program for employment of students under Republic Act 7323.

ECOP President Rene Y. Soriano said employers are endorsing Senate Bill Nos. 570, 908, 1417, 1718, and 1891 which propose to broaden the scope of the law on employment of students. ECOP has raised the need to include private establishments employing more than 10 workers rather than those with less than 10 workers under the special program on the employment of students. Based upon the statistical classification of the National Statistics Office (NSO), establishments employing less than 10 workers are classified as micro establishments.

He urged the Senate to consider other recommendations of ECOP in consolidating bills such as: inclusion of national governments and local government units as well as government-owned or controlled corporations; employment for students in the secondary shall only be during summer and/or Christmas vacation, while students enrolled in the tertiary, vocational or technological education may be employed at any time of the year; students employed in activities related to their course shall earn equivalent credits as may be determined by appropriate government agencies; enabling provision authorizing automatic and escalating appropriation; and amended provision on the issuance of implementing rules and regulations.

For details, call Gilmar Place, Inc. at 7160719 7166590 7165546

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- beside Coca Cola Export Corp. and Pilipinas Hino, Inc.

For inquiries, please contact
Tel. Nos. 655-7383/84
(ask for Hazel or Beth - office hours only)

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"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"

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- 1989 Mitsubishi Lancer
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- 1993 Nissan Sentra
- 1993 Toyota Lite Ace
- 1993 Toyota Corona
- 1995 Honda Civic
- 1996 Honda Civic
- 1996 Toyota Pick-up
- 1997 Mitsubishi Lancer
- 1997 Honda Motorcycle
- 2000 Honda Motorcycle

HEAD OFFICE
LOCATION: 41 Linew St. Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City
INSPECTION DATES: Monday & Tuesday, 2nd and 3rd October 2006 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
DEADLINE OF BID SUBMISSION: Wednesday, 4th October 2006 (11:00 PM).

- 1996 Nissan Dropside (Truck)
- 1996 Nissan Bida (Van)
- 1996 Nissan Dropside (Truck)
- 1996 Nissan Cabstar (Truck)
- 1992 Nissan Pick-up

PAMPANGA BRANCH
Location : Bo. San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga
INSPECTION DATES: Monday & Tuesday, 2nd and 3rd October 2006 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
DEADLINE OF BID SUBMISSION: Wednesday, 4th October 2006 (3:00 PM)

Interested bidders are required to submit BID OFFER on the date and time of bid submission including BID BOND equal to 10% of bid price in cash OR manager's check payable to Daikin Alen Air Conditioning, Inc.

DAIKIN-ALEN AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
For inquiries and to secure bid documents, plese contact the following
712-21-44 up to 52 / 712-44-95

Head Office :
Liza Aquino (loc. 205) meliza.aquino@daikin-alen.com.ph
Jena Kua (loc. 207) jena.kua@daikin-alen.com.ph
Ruel Cruz (loc. 102) ruel.cruz@daikin-alen.com.ph

Pampanga Branch :
Fred Sarcede
Landline No. (045) 963-1990

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificates nos. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of **Manpower Resources of Asia, Inc.** (the "Corporation") issued in the names of the following stockholders:

Issued to	Date Issued	Stock cert. No.	No. of Shares
Rene E. Cristobal	April 6, 1988	01	1,666
Luzviminda B. Laman	April 6, 1988	02	1,665
Jorge L. Dumatol	April 6, 1988	03	1,665
Noel A. Laman	April 6, 1988	04	2
Paulino C. Petralba	April 6, 1988	05	2
Rene E. Cristobal	April 26, 2006	014	3,332
Luzviminda B. Laman	April 26, 2006	015	3,332
Jorge L. Dumatol	April 26, 2006	016	3,332
Noel A. Laman	April 6, 2006	017	2
Paulino C. Petralba	April 26, 2006	018	2
Rene E. Cristobal	April 27, 2006	019	3,333
Luzviminda B. Laman	April 27, 2006	020	3,334
Jorge L. Dumatol	April 27, 2006	021	3,333

evidencing their ownership of shares of the Corporation were inadvertently lost. After the expiration of one (1) year from the date of the last publication of this Notice, the Corporation shall cancel in its book said stock certificates which have been lost, and replacement stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof, unless the stockholders post a bond in such amount as may be satisfactory to the Board, in which case, new stock certificates may be issued even before the expiration of the one (1) year period.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA L. SALIPSIP
Corporate Secretary
Manpower Resources of Asia, Inc.
(PDI – Sept. 24, Oct. 1 & 8, 2006)

NFA earmarks P1 B for main crop palay buying

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUthority has earmarked a total of P1 B to finance an intensive palay buying for this year's main harvest which starts in October until December.

NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr., said the agency is targeting to buy 1.82 million bags for this year's last quarter crop.

An aggressive palay buying, he said, will allow the agency to maintain sufficient buffer stock to effectively stabilize the supply and price of rice and perform its food security mandate.

In Luzon, among the regions with high procurement targets are Southern Tagalog with 660,000 bags, the Ilocos Region with 400,000 bags, Cagayan Valley with 119,000 bags and Central Luzon with 107,000 bags.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

CKSCAA: 60 years of unconditional support

THE CHIANG KAI SHEK COLLEGE Alumni Association (CKSCAA) was established at the end of World War II, the same time the United Nations was founded by the Allied Forces.

For 60 years, CKSCAA has been working hand in hand with the alma mater's board of trustees, officers, and teachers in abiding by its constitution and by-laws. CKSCAA has provided unconditional support specifically in the construction and the modernization of its school building and facilities. The association promotes athletic competitiveness, teacher's welfare, and quality education. It is well known for restless promulgation and preservation of the Confucius teaching, Chinese culture and traditions. Chiang Kai Shek College is now one of the best and biggest Chinese educational institutions outside China, Taiwan and Singapore.

CKSCAA has been the first-ever association to introduce and establish a Teacher's Welfare Fund and an Alumni Welfare Fund. Both foundations' funds have been solicited through the alumni's heartfelt generosity. The Teacher's Welfare Fund attests to the association's relentless effort in showing gratitude and appreciation to its mentors. With this endeavor, hospitalization and financial assistance have been made possible. The Alumni Welfare Fund has been initiated to provide scholastic assistance to gifted and promising students at all levels. CKSCAA currently sponsors 820 students this semester.

The alumni association annually holds free medical and dental mission to teachers, students, alumni and the surrounding community. Through the cooperation of various physicians and doctors, free consultations and medicines have been given. In time of calamities such as earthquakes or typhoons, financial assistance and relief goods have been made available to the victims. As always, the money was contributed by civic-minded alumni who believe in goodwill and sharing to their fellowmen.

Countless highly acknowledged leaders, civic or social personalities, past and present, have come from the alma mater. These men can be found throughout the Philippine archipelago, from big cities to small towns, fighting tooth and nail to better their community.

The alumni association has a total of 115 executive members, 45 of which are elected, and 70 are representative of their batch. Every year a new member is added to its roster. The alumni association is headed by its president Robert Que, graduate of Batch 30. Provincial and local coordinating centers from Isabela to Zamboanga now reach 28 offices. Ten international offices from Asia, United States of America and Canada have long been rendering their services.

Events like basketball intramurals and tournaments such as bowling, billiards, golf and Chinese checkers have been held biennially. Alay Lakad and mini-Olympics have also been held. All these activities draw huge participation from batches as they compete for endurance and stamina in the spirit of fun and sportsmanship. Last year, cultural missions, exchange students, and university campus visits were made possible to the key cities of China, such as Xiamen, Shanghai, and Beijing. This year, similar activities have been arranged to Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand where 350 participants took part.

For all that it has achieved, and for all its potential, surely the Chiang Kai Shek College Alumni Association can be considered a class of its own.

PLDT AWARDS MYDSL TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

PLDT recently awarded PLDT myDSL broadband Internet to the 2006 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in recognition of their academic excellence, outstanding moral character and selfless service to their respective communities. Smart Bro wi-fi Internet was also awarded to select students without DSL access. PLDT senior product manager- retail data services Marc Concio (standing, right) and Rotary Club-Makati central president lawyer Joey Lina (seated center) led the awarding of PLDT myDSL with (seated, from left) PLDT product manager for Internet services and public relations Angelique Gaston, Rotary Club past president Leonardo Tanlu and senior manager for marketing, Smart Broadband Inc, Kathy Concepcion-Carag. The 10 outstanding students hailing from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were chosen from out of 400 students from 200 colleges and universities nationwide. They represent excellence in various disciplines like medicine, agriculture, humanities, law, business and education.

Herbs found effective vs diabetes, hepatitis

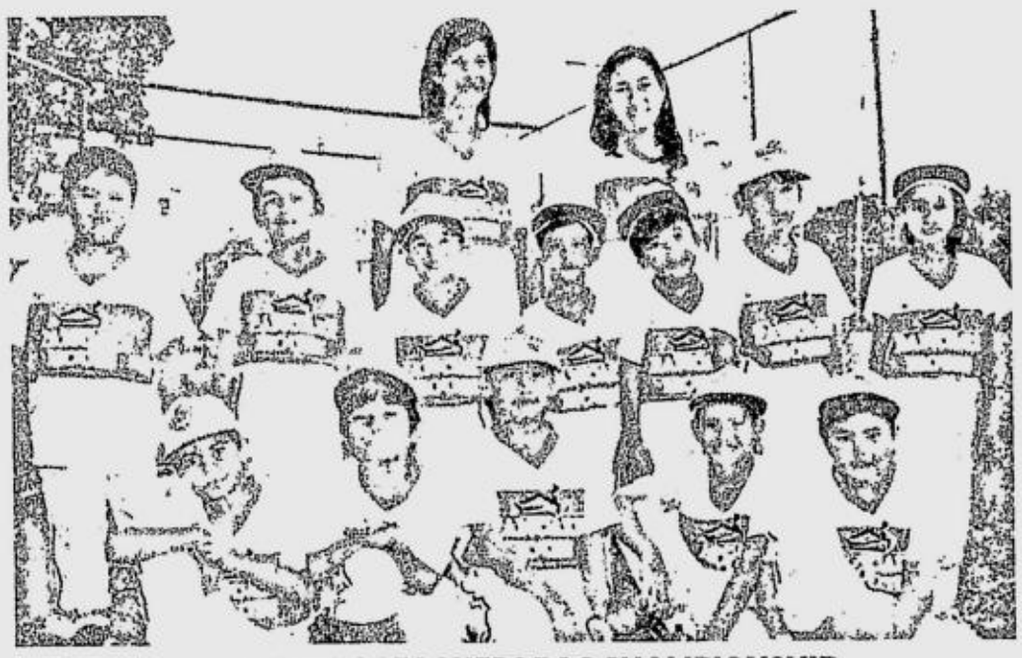
SCIENTISTS HAVE FOUND AN INsulin-like substance in an herb found effective in treating diabetes and hepatitis.

In a symposium in South Korea, professor Hiroshi Okuda of Ehime University, Japan, said the administration of this type of plant, described as a "miracle herb", has shown that the blood glucose level in patients at the early stage of diabetes returned to normal, and in cases of patients at advanced stages, the blood glucose level was significantly lowered.

Aside from diabetes, the herb-a human-like shaped root, has been found effective against other ailments such as rheumatism, arthritis, insomnia, tuberculosis, asthma, heart diseases, eyesight problems, and even cancer.

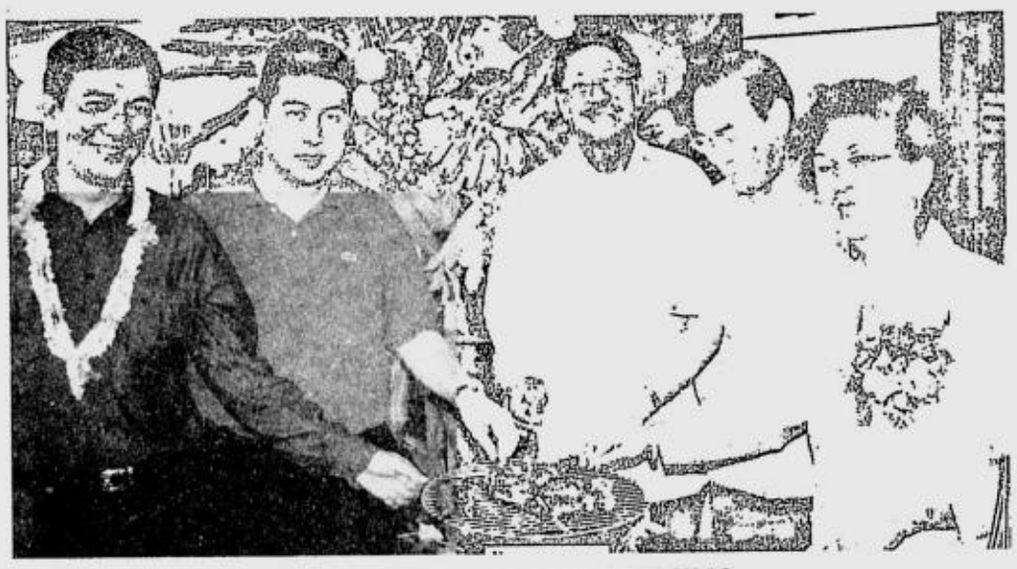
Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness and 70 percent of deaths among diabetics are due to atherosclerosis (thickening of the blood vessels) due to cholesterol buildup and kidney failure.

Approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, the herb is now available in the Philippines. For details on its medicinal benefits, call Lizada KRG at 736-7732 or 736-7691.



PANCAKE HOUSE LITTLE LEAGUERS BAG CHAMPIONSHIP

A sport encourages not only well-being but camaraderie and team work; and for kids, it is not only about fun but also learning how to be responsible through the role he or she is given in the field. Pancake House recognizes the value of supporting various sports programs especially for kids when it fielded a team at the annual baseball competition of the International Little League Association of Manila (Illam). 'It's very timely for us to support Illam in its advocacy to strengthen family relations since we're a restaurant that caters to the family,' said Bernadette Lee, Pancake House managing director. 'We also want to reach out to a wider market which we now call the 'Pancake Generation'—they are the young ones whose parents have enjoyed eating at Pancake House for a long time.' The Pancake House Team, composed of kids from various schools, won as the regular season team champion and the playoff champion for regular season 2005-2006. The team is being managed by Chris Manzano and coached by Dani Pagsisihan. Pancake House has since grown to a total of 61 outlets, with its newest branches located at SM City Sta. Rosa, Petron Bel-Air Square, the SM Mall of Asia and Eastwood. For inquiries, call 894-2000, or e-mail phi@pancake.biz.



MANG INASAL SM MALL OF ASIA GRAND OPENING

Iloilo's Pride, Mang Inasal-Home of Pinoy-Style Barbecue, recently held its grand opening at the SM Mall of Asia, facing the south terminal of the mall. The event was spearheaded by (from left) Iloilo 5th District Rep. Rolex Suplico, Mang Inasal owner Edgar 'Injap' Sia II, Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab, Roxas City Mayor Tony del Rosario and Pat Pineda. EVP-Manila Bulletin and chair emeritus, United Print Media Group (UPMG) together with its other members. The emergence of another Mang Inasal outlet is attuned to the company's vision that one day it will be known as a leading barbecue chain.

Acer leads pack with industry-first Core2 Duo

ACER, ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP COMPUTER manufacturers, continues to forge a strong hold of its leadership in the notebook computer segment in the local scene as it introduces several sleek and powerful units that possess the strongest performing yet low-power consuming processor type yet in the industry today.

Promising peak performance speeds that would rival any Formula 1 race car in the world's speed circuits today yet consumes the lowest power possible, the Intel Core2 Duo Processor is touted as the most revolutionary processor chip ever invented since the advent of the Pentium processor series.

And with Acer notebooks under its sub-brands Aspire and TravelMate equipped with the new Intel Core2 Duo Processor, mobile cyberwarriors of today can expect to reap the benefits of unmatched performance and energy consumption efficiency in notebook computers, features they thought would not be available in the near future, until today.

"Through the Aspire and TravelMate notebooks equipped with Intel Core2 Duo Processors, we give our consumers the best of both worlds in terms of overall performance and power consumption. We expect to continue our dominance of the market in this segment that our competitors would really have a hard time following," explains Agnes Neria-Espino, marketing manager of Acer (Philippines) Inc.

And with the launch of these new Intel Core2 Duo Processor-equipped computers, Neria-Espino said that they bring to the forefront what the market really wants in their notebooks: efficiency and high performance, complemented by unique style and look that consumers can't find in other brands, she added.

According to IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker Q206, Acer topped the Philippine notebook market in 1H2006. For the first six months of the year, Acer shipped 9,666 notebooks for a 21-percent share of the Philippine market-this was a total value of about $14.6 million, ahead of its closest competitors.

"There can never be any doubt that power, mobility, and reliability were the features that made Acer notebooks the number one brand in the country today, a direct result of our guiding principle of 'Empowering People.' We make sure that what we give to our customers are the best-of-breed products, ably supported by our quality Acer customer care and support system that's been hailed worldwide," continues Neria-Espino.

So head off to your nearest Acer retailer now and ask about the Acer Aspire and TravelMate computers with the revolutionary Intel Core2 Duo Processors so you won't be left behind in the bandwagon and be one among many around the world who have already enjoyed these exceptional products.

It's time to entertain at home!

WHAT DOES A GIRL WITH AN abundance of that bubbly "type A" personality to do in this multimedia era, the generation that lives and breathes in a "global community?" Why, get in front of a camera and spread some more of that good cheer around, of course.

Michelle Ty-Simone, executive producer and president of Michelle Simone Productions and the ultra-hands-on host of the upcoming TV show "Entertaining at Home", has her work down pat. All she wants to do, to borrow a Sheryl Crow anthem, is have some fun. And Michelle, just like Sheryl, feels she's not the only one.

Her TV show is but the perfect invite for all women (and their partners, boyfriends and husbands) to tune in and discover how to entertain-in the total sense of the word.

"'Entertaining at Home' is about how to create a theme party; cooking, decorating and how to make all the little details that make it personalized and special," Michelle gushes. "The obvious reason for the program is to inspire women and homemakers to entertain at home."

And that's not just your regular, sit-down-and-let's-have-some-chit-chat-and-maybe-some-laughs kind of entertaining. "Entertaining at Home" also aims to inspire people to create their own ideas that can apply to their everyday home-making lives. "If you are looking for specific ideas for parties or you just want to sit back and relax by watching what I like to call a feast for the eyes, then this show is it," Michelle stresses.

Viewers can expect a reflection of Michelle's hands-on work ethic and all-around personality in the show. Born and raised a Filipina (up to high school age in Brent Baguio), Her fun-loving spirit thrived when she moved to Hawaii after high school, where Michelle developed her knack for throwing unique and thoroughly enjoyable parties for friends and family. Her eye for unique parties sharpened when she joined the Philippine School of Interior Design in 1997 and served as event planner at Amazing Events Corp in Hawaii in 2001 while she was in college.

With "Entertaining at Home", it's hard to believe that this comely host with the straightforward, girl-next-door demeanor actually conceptualizes and produces every episode, and even serves as the vice president of finance of the family business on the side. Whoever said you can't have fun and balance the books at the same time hasn't met Michelle-or watched her TV show.

Having fun throwing parties at home, however, doesn't entail wanton disregard for what's practical or realistic, Michelle cautions. "Entertaining at Home", Michelle describes, is not just about dishing out your "fantasy" party. It's also about managing a party that wouldn't be a drain on your pockets as well.

"Most local shows hosted by well-known celebrities give it a showbiz appeal which offer quick-fix solutions that lead audiences to patronize restaurants or party organizers in solving the problem for them. Sadly, this robs the audience the excitement and the fulfillment they can achieve in putting together their own party that is easy, creative and fun.

"MSP is for the growing market seeking fresh, local-based, creative shows to guide and educate them back to the roots of quality at-home entertainment."

Michelle, a bona-fide homebody (typical of the Cancer sign, she laughs), does harbor her own dream theme party at home: "a futuristic, space-age, Star Trek-themed party." And since she has also expressed an affinity for Chinese food, viewers of "Entertaining at Home" might see, one of these days, a Mr. Spock-costumed partygoer willing the noodles to wrap themselves around Vulcan-made chopsticks.

'Nuf said, 'nuf read. To borrow a line this time from Pink, it's time to "get this party started!" So gather your welcoming party and catch MSP's "Entertaining at Home" Sundays at 10 a.m. on the Lifestyle Channel.

ProductFILES

KSA Magic Cream now available

KSA MAGIC CREAM IS THE LATEST whitening innovation in the science of beauty from Glowcal Manufacturing Corp, one of the country's leading skincare distributor and manufacturer.

KSA Magic Cream is the fastest, safest and most efficient skin whitener because it has no harmful ingredients, no hydroquinone, no mercury, and no animal fats. It's BFAD approved.

KSA Magic Cream moisturizes the skin and eliminates pimple marks, any dark spots of the body and other skin impurities in just seven days.

KSA products are available at all Mercury Drug outlets nationwide, SM Supermarket, Puregold and Sutla Skincare outlets. For dealership and product information, call hotline 655-3110 or 0915-9773279 and 0921-2069729.

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Deutsche Bank brings its strength in the global financial arena to global shared services with the creation of a wholly owned company, Deutsche Knowledge Services.

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BERONG NICKEL CORPORATION

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY,
CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

COME JOIN THE EMERGING NICKEL LEADER

Poised to deliver an annual production of 1 million dry metric tonnes of ore within a 12-month period, Berong Nickel Corporation (BNC) is soon to become one of the Philippines' leading players in the nickel industry. Committed to the highest standards and world's best practices, we aim for the sustainable development of our host communities, safety of the people and protection of the environment. Recognizing that our ability to contribute to the wealth-creation of the country rests on people, we now seek experienced, talented and high-caliber individuals to join the growing community in Berong, Quezon, Palawan.

Senior roles to be filled include:

- **Resident Site Manager (1)**
- **Mine Production Superintendent (1)**
- **Port and Shipping Superintendent (1)**
- **Senior Mine Geologist (1)**
- **Senior Safety and Security Officer (1)**
- **Senior Administration Officer (1)**

- **Resident Site Manager**

  Role: This seasoned and experienced operator will be responsible for building the team on site, and will be tasked with the challenging role of leading the people, integrating and steering all aspects of the site operations to meet production goals. The candidate plays a critical role in implementing the business plan and ensuring that all BNC standards, policies and procedures are adhered to.

  Qualifications: Licensed Mining Engineer with at least 10 years experience in line management with direct responsibility for all aspects of the mining operations, including safety, health and environment. Must have strong team leadership and demonstrated excellence in operations, planning, organizing and contracts management.

- **Mine Production Superintendent**

  Role: The candidate will supervise mining and hauling contractor/s, manage mining contracts, organize and mobilize all resources and ensure smooth day-to-day operations. Short-term and long-term mine planning also forms part of the role.

  Qualifications: Licensed Mining Engineer with at least 7 years of direct responsibility for production planning and operations. Preferably from open-pit mining environment or nickel mine.

- **Port & Shipping Superintendent**

  Role: The candidate will be responsible for the management of the coastal stockpile facilities and for all marine port operations, logistics management, preparing shipping schedules and ensuring a seamless movement of product from stockpiles to the ships. This role will also manage interface with stevedoring and barge/shiploading contractors.

  Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in any discipline with at least 10 years of hands-on experience in marine port operations and communications, logistics management. Knowledgeable in reading and utilizing weather forecasts and tidal movement information.

- **Senior Mine Geologist**

  Role: The candidate will play a key role in the development of the mine, grade control, implementation of ore extraction techniques, resource and reserve estimation and providing technical geological information. Supervision and management of the on-site assay laboratory will also form part of the role.

  Qualifications: Licensed Geologist with at least 7 years in mineral exploration and/or mining environment, preferably in ultramafic terrain. Has proficiency in geological data processing and analysis using GIS and other software.

- **Senior Safety & Security Officer**

  Role: The candidate will execute site safety and security systems and policies, develop and conduct training programs to create a safety-first culture. This position will also be responsible for the management of security contractor.

  Qualifications: Licensed Mining Engineer and Accredited Safety Officer with at least 5 years of relevant experience in safety policy formulation and implementation in mining or quarrying operations.

- **Senior Administration Officer**

  Role: The candidate will be responsible for all site administration services including purchasing, payroll and accounting, site costings, disbursements, catering and cleaning contractors, and assistance in recruitment and hiring.

  Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in any business or management course with at least 5 years of hands-on experience in people administration and managing administrative services; with knowledge on payroll and accounting. Preferably from mining or construction environments.

We also seek individuals equipped with appropriate operational and technical knowledge and skills to complement the technical/operations group. Candidates should possess the requisite college degree and licensure, with 3-5 years relevant experience:

- **Mine Supervisor (2)**
- **Short-Term Mine Planning Engineer (1)**
- **Grade Control Officer (1)**
- **Geodetic Engineer (1)**
- **Stockpile Officer (1)**
- **Junior Geologist (2)**

To complete the team, we need to fill the following support roles. Candidates should possess relevant college education, with 1-4 years work experience in similar capacity:

- **Accounting & Payroll Officer (1)**
- **Purchasing Officer (1)**
- **Administrative Assistant (1)**
- **Accounting Assistant (1)**
- **Sr. Geologic Aide/Geological Assistant (2)**

Palawan-based applicants are encouraged to apply.

All candidates must be very good at written and verbal communication and should have excellent organizing and planning skills. Proficiency in all Microsoft Office applications is also a must.

We offer very competitive compensation to successful candidates.

If interested, please send your comprehensive resumes in Word format to ***recruitment@tmmphil.com*** *indicating the role applied for as title/subject. You may also call 817-2058 or 817-7104 for inquiries.*

UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME PERSONNEL for MONITORING AND EVALUATION (NPPP - M & E)

Under the guidance of the UNFPA Representative and the supervision of an Assistant Representative, the NPPP for Monitoring and Evaluation is expected to provide technical assistance in the conduct of regular monitoring and periodic evaluation of UNFPA-supported programs and projects.

More specifically, the tasks of the NPPP for Monitoring and Evaluation, are as follows:

- Leads the formulation and execution of the M and E framework of the 6th CP consistent with UNFPA's RBM Guidelines;
- Facilitates and assists in the development and finalization of an M and E manual for the 6th CP in collaboration with country staff and government counterparts;
- Enhances existing monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms developed for the 6th CP and its component projects under the Results Based Management approach;
- Provides technical assistance and guidance to all executing and implementing agencies of the 6th Country Programme in monitoring and evaluation;
- Prepares consolidated reports on M and E activities of the 6th CP, including the identification of success and hindering factors and recommendations for improving programme operations and prepares summaries containing an assessment of the relevance of program achievements, weaknesses and contributory potentials of project partners;
- Develops appropriate and timely feedback mechanisms to disseminate findings and analysis of major trends, issues and concerns affecting project implementation as basis for improving overall program performance;
- Leads in the conduct of periodic evaluation/ assessment of the level of implementation of the three components of the 6th CP Program and provides assistance to partners in documenting emerging best practices at the local level;
- Actively participates in the UN inter-agency group on the UNDAF M and E, and serves as a resource person for UNFPA, in workshops, technical working group meetings, UNFPA Programme Sub-Committee on M and E and the UN Working Group on M and E and other coordinated M and E mechanisms within the country;
- Reviews the field monitoring reports, project reports or outputs as well as provides necessary guidance to ensure compliance with project requirements for monitoring and evaluation; and,
- Performs other duties as assigned by the UNFPA Representative to the Philippines.

Core Competencies:
- Integrity and commitment to UNFPA's mandate / valuing diversity
- Performance management
- Fostering Innovation and Empowerment
- Working in teams at all levels
- Communicating information and ideas/Knowledge sharing
- Self-management/Emotional intelligence and Conflict management/Negotiating and resolving disagreements
- Appropriate and transparent decision making
- Analytical and Strategic Thinking/Results Orientation/Commitment to Excellence

Functional Competencies:
- Advocacy/Advancing a policy-oriented M and E agenda
- Results-based programme development and management
- Leveraging the resources of national governments & partners/building strategic alliances and partnerships
- Innovation and marketing of new and cost-effective approaches
- Job knowledge/technical expertise
- Conceptual Innovation in the provision of technical expertise

Qualifications and experience required:
- Masters' degree in Economics or Statistics or equivalent
- At least seven years of relevant experience in M and E, with significant academic and/or programme/policy experience, including at least five years of experience at the international level
- Specialized knowledge and at least five years of experience in Reproductive Health or Adolescent Reproductive Health, preferred but not required
- Strong proven ability for conceptual innovation, relationship building/partnering and networking. providing teamwork and task management
- Excellent organizational skills, including computer skills
- Excellent English, both verbal and written, is mandatory
- Familiarity with UN development programmes and working methods, and particularly with UNFPA policies and procedures, experience in working with government and civil society is an added value
- Work experience in Asia is an asset

Applicants are requested to send application letter indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in www.unfpa.org/about/employment/documents/p-11.doc to: The Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, 1229 Makati City, Philippines or through email: jtraquina@unfpa.org.ph. All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Mr. Roberto P. Manongdo of UNFPA Manila by email: rmanongdo@unfpa.org.ph.

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. Women and nationals from developing countries are encouraged to apply. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

This is a project-funded post.

Salary: negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Deadline for submission of applications: 15 October 2006

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INQUIRER JOB Market
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October 23 and 24 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

INQUIRER JOB Market
EMPLOYMENT EXPO
November 20 to 22 at the Glorietta Activity Center

JICA

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
PHILIPPINE OFFICE

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which is an active development partner of the Philippine Government is now seeking the services of a dynamic and competent staff with a high degree of initiative to fill the position of:

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The staff will be working with Japanese and Filipino counterparts and shall be responsible for administrative, logistic and technical support, as well as, coordinating with government offices or related agencies in the implementation of programs.

While the successful applicant may be initially assigned to the Program Operation or Procurement Section, JICA Staff must be prepared to be assigned to any section at the discretion of Management.

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, 23-30 years old
- Graduate of a four-year university course
- With at least two (2) years working experience in the development field
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Proficient in basic computer skills (Excel, Word, Powerpoint &/or Filemaker)
- Good interpersonal skills, adaptable and willing to learn
- Strong analytical skills

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a government agency responsible for implementing the technical cooperation programs of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). For more information, refer to JICA's homepage: **http://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/index.html.**

The recruitment will be handled by the Takezawa Technology Transfer & Industrial Consultancy, Inc (TTT-ICI). All applicants must submit their Curriculum Vitae including two work-related references on or before October 4, 2006 to TTT-ICI at Unit-K 3rd Floor, Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City or e-mail to **tttici@pldtdsl.net** (Subject: JICA)

(Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.)

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Desktop Publisher

This role will be integral in the long-term execution of the strategic initiatives of the Firm's global Marketing & Communications department. The person hired will be based in Manila and will work closely with the Marketing, Public Relations and Business Development network Firmwide. He or she will execute desktop publishing and design work to reflect the correct application of the Firm's visual identity program.

The ideal candidate is an enthusiastic team player with strong communication skills and a technical aptitude in design programs including QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Illustrator and Adobe Acrobat in a Windows environment.

He/she must have the following credentials:
- Bachelor's degree in marketing, design or equivalent certificate in desktop publishing
- 1-3 years of experience in desktop publishing (using QuarkXpress)
- Graphic design experience, an advantage
- Advanced desktop publishing skills (Quark preferred)
- Ability to prepare digital files from raw data for online deployment and prepress output
- Good understanding of Microsoft office suite
- Strong oral and written English, and analytical skills
- Excellent organizational and follow-up skills
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Ability to prioritize and work independently with limited supervision

Shift hours for this position may vary to accommodate the Firm's time zones.

Qualified applicants may submit their cover letter, resume, 2x2 picture and other credentials to bmgsm.hr@bakernet.com.

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Outbound Customer Care Representative - Collection
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(Ortigas)

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(Ortigas - email resume to alex.raymundo@convergys.com)
Daytime openings for Korean speaking agents, knowledgeable in computers, Internet and proficient in MS Excel.

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, and experience faster processing. You may also email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com or call our recruitment hotline at (02)581-5760.

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

We offer attractive compensation and benefits packages. Additional rewards and incentives are given to top performing agents. Applicants with resume, NBI clearance, TIN, SSS number and Transcript of Records will be prioritized.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate Banawa Hills, Cebu City
(032)416-5810

CONVERGYS
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The British Embassy Manila is currently seeking to fill the following vacancy

PROJECT MANAGER
Engaging with the Islamic World Programme

The British Embassy is looking for a bright, self-starting university graduate with the ability to develop and support projects to promote the understanding of and engagement with Muslim communities and to work with them to promote economic and social reform. Good spoken and written English and strong project management and budget skills will be essential, together with at least three years of professional experience.

This is a 6 month contract (with a strong possibility of extension) with a salary of PHP39,122 per month, with annual bonuses and medical package.

How to apply
To apply please submit, in an A4 sized envelope, a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages), 2 references, 1 passport size photograph and a hand-written letter explaining your suitability for this position to:

HR Manager (EIW Slot)
17/F LV Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226
Metro Manila

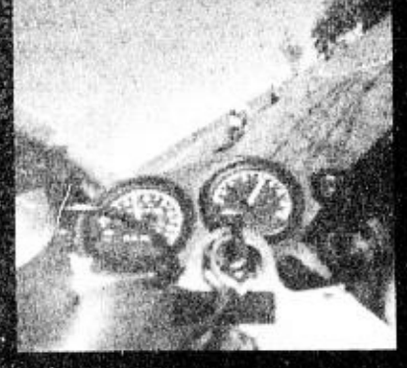
Please note that all applications sent to anyone other than the HR Manager will not be taken into consideration.

Deadline & Start Date
Deadline for submission of application is **9 October 2006**. We hope that the successful candidate will start work as soon as possible.

THE BRITISH EMBASSY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Shift to the fast lane.*



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As a Manager, you will have detailed knowledge of customs and international trade issues in Asia, especially, ASEAN, gained from finance, law, government service or from a commercial background.

- Graduate of law, finance, accountancy or other business-related course.
- Minimum of 5 years of customs and international trade experience.
- Recent job position must be Assistant Manager or Manager.
- Very good communication, interpersonal, supervisory and project management skills.

Consultant

As a Consultant, you will support projects including valuation of imports, classification, duty reliefs, country of origin, trade measures, duty preferences and legal restructuring to ensure our clients are duty and tax efficient across the global supply chain.

- Graduate of law, finance, accountancy or other business-related course.
- Very good communication and interpersonal skills.
- New graduates may apply.

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E-mail your resumé to:

The Human Resources Department
To:
michelle.s.argarin@ph.pwc.com,
pam.m.gregorio@ph.pwc.com
Subject:
WMS Manager [your surname, first name] or WMS Consultant [your surname, first name]

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TeleTech is the leading provider of Customer Management and Business Process Outsourcing solutions worldwide. Headquartered in Denver, Colorado with a global network in 16 countries, TeleTech supports 40,000 employees in 80 Customer Management Centers (CMCs) located in North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. Since 2001, TeleTech has supported the world's largest companies in our eight state-of-the-art CMCs in the Philippines.

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JOB Market

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All Customer Care Specialists for this account must be processed from September 25 to October 13, 2006 and should start on October 14, 2006.

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Travel - Baggage

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. Must be adept in computers
. Must have high comprehension, must be an active listener, and a critical thinker

Travel - Reservations

. Must have completed at least 3 years of college education
. Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
. Must be adept in computers
. Preferably those with good background in Tourism, Foreign Service, International Studies, and other related courses
. Prior experience in the Travel Industry (i.e. as a reservation agent with good travel training and familiarity with IATA) is an advantage
. Experience in up selling and cross-selling is also an advantage
. Must have high comprehension, must be an active listener, and a critical thinker

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. Experience in up selling is an advantage
. Background in Photography is an advantage

we are also hiring Customer Care Specialists for:

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. Must have completed at least 3 years of college education or a 2-year vocational course
. Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
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. Experience in handling customer service support for telecommunications is an advantage

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. Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

Vacancy No : 2006/01
Date Issued : 1 October 2006
Closing Date : 13 October 2006

POST TITLE : **HUMAN RESOURCE (HR) ANALYST**
ENTRY LEVEL : NO-B (National Officer)
OFFICE AND LOCATION : Human Resources Unit – Operations Support Group (OSG) UNDP – Manila
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT : Fixed Term (initial one-year appointment)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Implementation of HR strategies and policies

1. Ensures implementation of HR strategies and policies focusing on achievement of the following results:
   - Full compliance of HR activities with UN rules and regulations, UNDP policies, procedures and strategies; effective implementation of the internal control, proper design and functioning of the HR management system.
   - Continuous analysis of corporate HR strategies and policies, assessing the impact of changes and making recommendations on their implementation in the CO. Continuous research of the matters related to conditions of service, salaries, allowances and other policy matters. Elaboration and introduction of measurement indicators, monitoring and reporting on achievement of results.
   - CO HR business processes mapping and elaboration/establishment of internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in HR management, control of the workflows in the HR Unit.
   - Implementation of the strategic approach to recruitment in the CO, proper use of contractual modalities, forecast of the staffing needs, performance evaluation and staff career development management.

Effective HR management

2. Ensures effective human resources management focusing on achievement of the following results:
   - Management of recruitment processes including job descriptions, job classification, vacancy announcement, screening of candidates, chairing interview panels, making recommendations on recruitment. Oversight of recruitment under UNDP projects.
   - Review and certification of submissions to the Local Appointment and Promotion Board (LAPB).
   - Management of contracts in and outside Atlas. Monitoring and tracking of all transactions related to positions, recruitment, HR data, benefits, earnings/deductions, retroactivity, recoveries, adjustments and separations through Atlas. Upon delegation of responsibility, performs HR Manager functions in Atlas.
   - Management of international staff entitlements and position funding delegated to the HR Unit.
   - Development and management of rosters.
   - Validation of cost-recovery charges in Atlas for HR services provided by UNDP to other Agencies.

Staff Performance management and career development

3. Ensures proper staff performance management and career development focusing on achievement of the following results:
   - Elaboration and implementation of the protocol for performance appraisal process, facilitation of the process, elaboration of performance evaluation indicators in consultation with the Senior Management.
   - Support to effective learning management including establishment of the Whole Office Learning plan and individual learning plans in collaboration with the Senior Management and Learning Manager. Implementation of the Universal Access strategy ensuring access to role appropriate learning activities.
   - Provision of effective counseling to staff on career advancement, development needs, learning possibilities and mediation when required.
   - Implementation of strategic staffing policies in line with career development.

Conduct of UN-related surveys

4. Ensures conduct of UN-related surveys focusing on achievement of the following results:
   - Organization and coordination of comprehensive and interim local salary, hardship and place-to-place surveys in coordination with the Operations Manager.

Facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing

5. Ensures facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing in the CO focusing on achievement of the following results:
   - Organization of trainings for operations/ programme staff on HR issues.
   - Synthesis of lessons learnt and best practices in HR.
   - Sound contributions to knowledge networks and communities of practice.

Corporate Competencies:
- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standards
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability
- Treats all people fairly without favoritism

Functional Competencies:

Knowledge Management and Learning
- Shares knowledge and experience and contributes to UNDP practice areas
- Encourages office staff to share knowledge and contribute to UNDP Practice Areas
- Develops deep understanding in one or more Practice Areas
- Promotes a learning environment in the office
- Demonstrates strong coaching/mentoring skills, regularly providing helpful feedback and advice to others in the office
- Actively works towards continuing personal learning and development in one or more practice areas, acts on learning plan and applies newly acquired skills

Development and Operational Effectiveness
- Ability to lead strategic planning, results-based management and reporting
- Ability to lead recruitment, contracts management, performance appraisal, career development management, build teams, maintain high staff morale
- Strong IT skills
- Ability to implement new systems (business side) and affect staff behavioral/ attitudinal change

Management and Leadership
- Focuses on impact and result for the client
- Leads teams effectively and shows conflict resolution skills
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude
- Demonstrates strong oral and written communication skills
- Builds strong relationships with clients and external actors
- Remains calm, in control and good humored even under pressure
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities
- Responds positively to critical feedback and differing points of view
- Solicits feedback from staff about the impact of his/her own behavior

RECRUITMENT QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: Master's Degree or equivalent in HR, Business Administration, Public Administration or related field.

Experience: Minimum of 4 years of relevant experience in human resources management / personnel administration, preferably in an international organization occupying a managerial position providing HR advisory services and/or managing staff and operational systems. Experience in implementing career development schemes, maintaining performance appraisal system and mediation. Knowledge of Human Resource management theories and practices and Human Resource computerized system

Language Requirement: Very good in English, both written and oral

The selected candidate will receive a salary depending on his/her background and work experience

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs and send to :

Human Resource Unit
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 13 October 2006. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed.

Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

POWER BOOKS specialty store

is in need of dynamic and good team players to fill the following vacancies for Ortigas, Makati, Alabang, Ermita and Pasay Branches:

• Customer Service Associates (CSA) • Book Associates (BA) • Cashiers (CA)

Marketing Manager: female, not more than 35 years old, creative, flexible, should have marketing background particularly in the field of PR, Media, Events & Advertising. Willing to work long hours and can meet deadlines.

Sales Manager: female, not more than 35 years old, flexible, at least 2 to 3 years experience in sales.

Marketing Officer: female, not more than 35 years old, creative, flexible, must be able to work with different people, with 2 to 3 years experience in marketing.

Web Administrator: female, not more than 35 years old, knowledgeable in html and Photoshop. Willing to work long hours.

Marketing Assistant: has a background in marketing, creative, fluent in English, both oral and written.

Book Specialist: preferably a graduate of Literature, English or related course, loves to read, fluent in English, both oral and written.

Accounting Staff: female, Accounting graduate, has substantial experience in accounts receivables (credit card transactions) preferably in retail.

Graphic Artist: knowledgeable and experienced in computer graphics (Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Freehand and the likes), Fine Arts graduate.

Generally, candidates must be:
- Single, not more than 26 years old, college graduate
- Articulate in English (both oral & written)
- Service oriented and should love dealing with people
- Willing to work on shifting schedule, including weekends and holidays
- Book lovers

If you qualify, drop-off resume (with 2x2 photo) at any Power Books branch or you may proceed to No. 25 Brixton, St., Capitol Subdivision, Pasig City (Wednesday or Friday) for a possible interview.

Zyrel Limited
Philippine Representative Office

Zyrel, Inc., a fast-growing provider of electronics manufacturing services based in Silicon Valley USA is looking for its Philippine office a

Components Engineer

Requirements:
- College graduate, any technical course but preferably electronics or electrical engineering
- Experience in technical procurement/ purchasing and/or materials qualification preferred
- Must be able to read/interpret parts specification sheets, MSDS and other technical documents
- Must be computer literate (i.e. MS Office), working knowledge on MRP/ERP is an advantage
- Above average communication skills (good command of English)
- Exposure/knowledge in manufacturing, preferably electronics, is a big advantage
- Must be diligent, hardworking, and with an eye for detail
- Able to work with minimal supervision
- Willing to work in Alabang, Muntinlupa (near Ayala- Alabang)

Interested parties may send their resumé via fax or email no later than October 9, 2006.

Email: artz@zyrel-phil.com.ph
Fax No: (02) 850 6456

A DAVAO-BASED PLASTIC MANUFACTURING COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

PLANT MANAGER
- Male between 35-49 years old with managerial skills
- Must have at least 5 years experience in plastic plant operations
- Experience in Blow, injection and extrusion molding is an advantage
- Mechanical or Electrical engineering back round is an advantage
- Productivity and Plant Efficiency implementer & can handle people well
- A God-loving person of integrity preferred

MOLD MAKER & MAINTENANCE
- Male between 30-40 years old
- With extensive knowledge & experience in mold making and designing
- Should be skilled, trustworthy, has initiative & of good moral character
- Can work under minimum supervision

PLANT TECHNICIAN
- Male between 30-45 years old
- Should be a graduate of mechanical, electrical, or technical school; TESDA trained personnel also welcomed, particularly those with electrical & refrigeration background; with experience in industrial automation, inverters, PLC controls
- Should be trustworthy, of good moral character & has initiative
- Should have at least 5 years experience in the plastic manufacturing industry, injection, blow molding & extrusion

Please submit comprehensive resumé with recent picture to:

The MP Manager
MP Blue Gate, R. Castillo St., Davao City
(Fronting Granland Building)
Or email to mp.plastic@yahoo.com

Applications will be accepted until Oct. 10, 2006 only.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

G.S. TEACHERS
(Substitute)
- BEEd graduate with specialization, READING, MATHEMATICS, PRE-SCHOOL
- Dedicated, innovative, single (male or female), not more than 30 yrs. old
- Good English communication skills; LET Passer

SECRETARY
(Contractual)
- B.S. Computer Secretarial / BS Secretarial Administration graduate
- Female; not more than 30 years old; Good moral character

APPLY PERSONALLY:
NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA
Madre Ignacia Avenue, Grace Park 1400
Caloocan City
Tel. # 361-73-10 local 125 (gs);
3617435 (non-teaching)

BRING: Transcript of Records, Bio Data, Handwritten Application Letter, SSS#, TIN, ID Picture.

ZyXEL Philippines, Inc.

Is in need of dynamic people for the following positions:

Business Unit Head, Telco/ISP
- MBA
- Must have at least 3 years sales experience in the Telco & ISP Industry
- Must have a strong knowledge in Networking, Internet Technology and Security.

Business Unit Head, Corporate & Consumer
- MBA
- Must have at least 3 years experience in I.C.T. distribution business
- Must have a strong knowledge in Networking, Internet Technology and Security

Business Unit Head, VAP
- MBA
- Must have at least 3 years experience in channels development
- Must have a strong knowledge in Networking, Internet Technology and Security
- Other I.C.T. Certification is an advantage

Chief Accountant
- CPA, 5 years experience
- Must be very familiar with local tax laws
- Must be experienced in logistics (importation, inventory, etc.)
- Must have a good grasp of international accounting standards.

Marketing Head
- Marketing Graduate from reputable schools
- At least 2 years marketing experience in I.C.T. industry.
- Must have a strong working knowledge in Networking, Internet Technology and Security
- Must be able to develop and implement unique concept effectively.
- Must be very familiar with various top I.C.T. publications and dailies in the country.

Please send or email your complete resumé to:
#25 G. Roxas St., Brgy San Jose, Quezon City
hr@zyxel.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HINGE INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today is in immediate need of the following

Field Sales Representative (LIMITED SLOTS ONLY)

RESPONSIBILITY
The Field Sales Representative will be directly responsible in acquiring subscribers for all Hinge Inquirer magazines

WHAT WE OFFER:
- ✔ Regular allowances
- ✔ Direct commissions for every closed sale plus bonuses and special incentives
- ✔ Travel opportunities
- ✔ Highly affordable products with huge markets, no competition and potential for repeat orders
- ✔ Outstanding support from a company with a proven track record

REQUIREMENTS:
- Male or Female, 18 to 40 years old, hard-working, goal-oriented, and aggressive
- Willing to work full-time, with or without experience
- Has an outgoing personality and likes to meet people
- At least high school graduate

Marketing Project Consultant

RESPONSIBILITY
The Marketing Project Consultant will handle the conceptualization and execution of special marketing programs. This includes the forging of tie-ups with partner establishments, promotion and events initiatives

WHAT WE OFFER:
- ✔ Professional fees
- ✔ Training and support
- ✔ Travel opportunities

REQUIREMENTS:
- Female, 22 to 30 years old, with a pleasant appearance and personality, willing to work full-time, with or without experience
- Must be a graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university; preferably with a degree in Mass Communications, Business Management, Marketing or Advertising
- Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Filipino
- Must have strong and persuasive presentation and negotiation skills

Editorial Assistant

REQUIREMENTS:
- between 19-23 years old
- a graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree), from UP, UST, Ateneo, La Salle or UA&P
- equipped with exceptional communication skills in both written and spoken English and Filipino
- organized, resourceful, and creative
- able to work under minimal supervision, and individually or with a group
- willing to work overtime

Interested EA applicants can email their resumés to egubat@hip.ph or eva.gubat@gmail.com

Graphic Designer

REQUIREMENTS:
- at least 19 years old
- a graduate of Fine Arts or Multimedia Arts
- with exceptional designing skills using Adobe CS (Indesign, Photoshop and Illustrator)
- organized, resourceful, and creative
- able to work under minimal supervision, and individually or with a group
- willing to work overtime

Interested EA applicants can email their resumés to cgarperio@hip.ph or wapakkk@yahoo.com

hinge inquirer PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants are required to bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. Visit our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm ● Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024 loc. 116
FOR FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVE AND MARKETING PROJECT CONSULTANT APPLICANTS, KINDLY LOOK FOR MS. JENNY AQUINO.
FOR EDITORIAL ASSISTANT APPLICANTS, KINDLY LOOK FOR EVA GUBAT.

CDC Clark Development Corporation

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) is urgently in need of applicants for the **SR. LEGAL OFFICER (2)** position under the Legal Department

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Prepares and reviews documents of undertaking (e.g. contracts, memorandum of agreement, etc.) necessary in the ordinary course of business and determine their soundness and legality, working within a reasonable period of time.
2. Renders interpretative legal opinions, researches, and extensive legal studies regarding legal issues and problems affecting day-to-day operations of the corporation.
3. Attends to cases, in coordination with OGCC, instituted by the corporation or against the corporation and take the appropriate course of action to protect the interest of the corporation.
4. Prepares pleadings; appears at trials; and insures that pleadings are properly and timely filed before the courts, commissions or quasi-judicial agencies
5. Makes regular progress reports to the Manager on cases being handled and maintains a cordial relationship with court personnel and agencies before which cases are pending
6. Handles and reviews investigative and administrative hearings and cases within the company; acts as hearing officer in special cases.
7. Prepares necessary correspondence to locators or prospective investors addressing issues that need to be resolved as well as demand letters in preparation for the filing of necessary court actions
8. Analyzes and recommends courses of action to CDC officers and staff to facilitate contract administration
9. Renders timely and sound legal assistance and/or advice on matters affecting the operation of the corporation
10. Represent the department in various committee memberships and meetings that requires the department's services or representation and other official functions as may be necessary.
11. Represent the corporation in contract negotiation and other corporate undertakings
12. Updates himself with the latest trends in legal matters paying strict attention to jurisprudence in his assigned field or legal expertise
13. Supervises in the preparation of a compilation of materials of pertinent laws, rules and regulations.
14. Makes regular progress reports to the Assistant Manager and Manager on issues being handled
15. Performs such other tasks as may be required in the exigency of work in the department and as may be required by Management

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
- Filipino citizen, not more than 45 years old, of good health and character
- Licensed Lawyer, at least 3-5 years experience in the practice of law (litigation & corporate practice)
- Computer literate
- Proficient in the English language, both written & oral
- With analytical capability, hardworking and can work under pressure
- Can work under minimal supervision

HRD will accept applications from **October 03** to **October 10, 2006.**

Please submit your applications to the Human Resources Department, Planning and Placement Section, Bldg. 2127, 3rd Floor, cor. E. Quirino and C.P. Garcia Sts., Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga or you can send your applications thru e-mail at **thelmaocampo@clark.com.ph**:

1. Bio-data with 2"x2" picture
2. Diploma/Transcript of Records
3. Certificate of Admission to the Bar & Rollo Number
4. Certificate of Employment
5. Certificate of Training
6. Barangay and Police Clearances

For more inquiries, please call (045) 599-9000 loc. 533 and/or 535.

LITYAN (PHILIPPINES) INC.

A subsidiary of a Malaysian publicly listed company whose main business is Information Technology and Telecommunications is looking for a:

TECHNICIAN

Male. Between 23 to 30 years old. Graduate of EE or ECE; at least three (3) years experience in technical or electronics repairs. With basic knowledge in telecoms preferably in telephone installation. Owns and rides a motorcycle. Willing to accept provincial assignments.

We offer competitive salaries, incentive packages and opportunities for career development. This is an urgent requirement. Please apply in person with your application letter and resume at the following address:

4F RFM Corporate Center, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No.: 747-2950; email address:
agtolentino@lityanphils.com

Sales Exec, Film P.A., Editors, Computer Graphics, Animators

- ➢ Mass Comm or Fine Arts Grad.
- ➢ Passionate Film Makers
- ➢ Dedicated, Insane, but Cool!

Bring transcript, 2 photos, & biodata to:

RSVP Film Studios 2nd Flr.,
Salamin Bldg. 197 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Get a chance to work abroad in this year's Inquirer Job Market Overseas Employment Expo on October 23 and 24 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall.

WANTED!!!
OFFICE ASSISTANTS
for Subic and Makati Offices

- Female
- With pleasing personality
- Computer literate

Send resumé to:

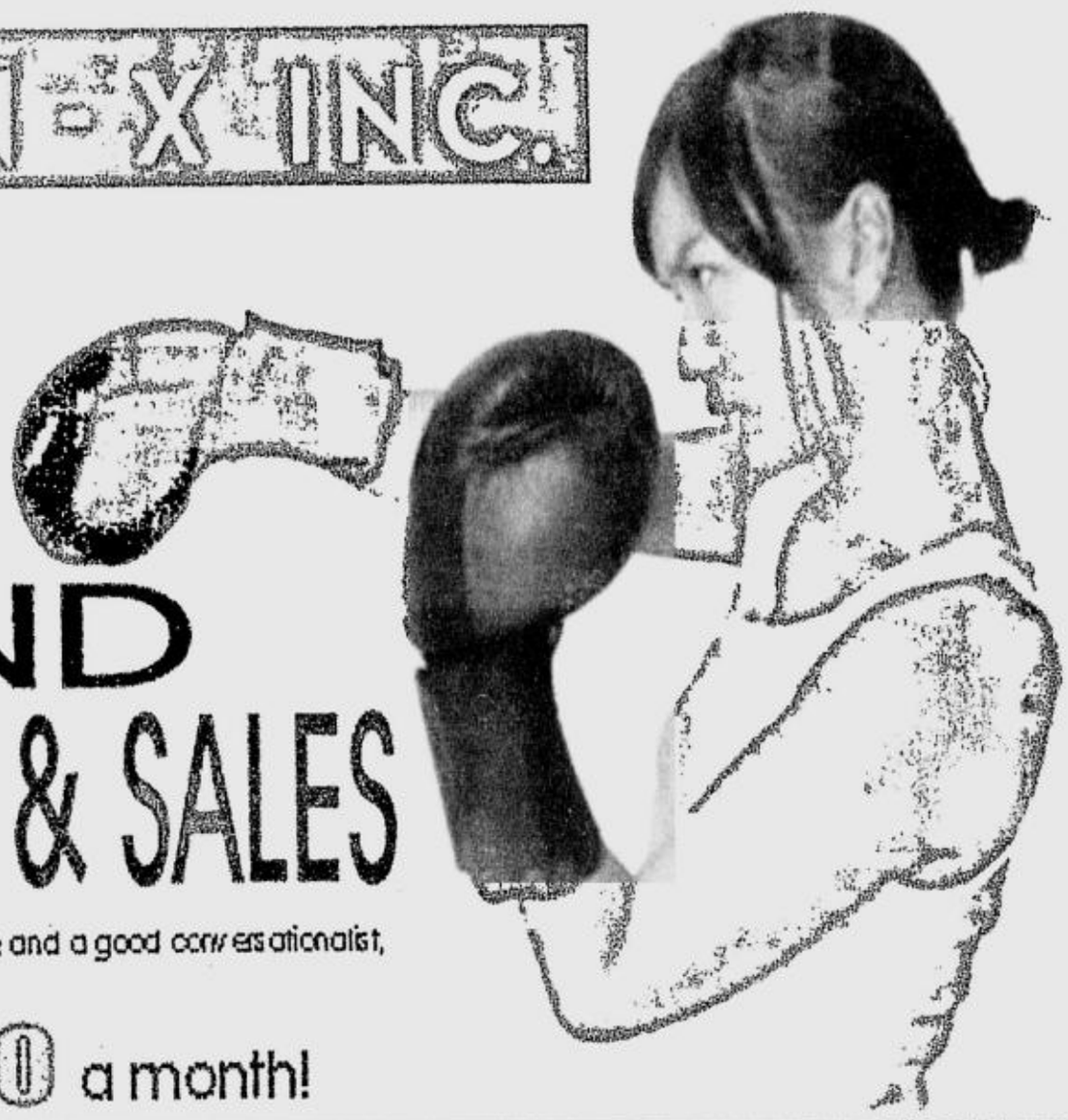
Rm. 207 Alpha Bldg.
Subic International Hotel, SBFZ,
Olongapo City and/or
Rm. 1001 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower,
Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH THE "ONE-TWO" COMBINATION

BECOME A VISION-X INC.

CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVE

INBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE & SALES



Strong communication skills, solid customer service/sales orientation, personable and a good conversationalist, details oriented and willing to work graveyard shifts.

Earn close to Php 50,000 a month!

OTHER OPENINGS: (Candidates must have relevant work experience.)

OPERATIONS MANAGER, CLIENT SERVICES MANAGER, SYSTEMS ENGINEER, HELPDESK ENGINEER, APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER, BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR, ADMIN. SPECIALIST, WORKFORCE REAL-TIME ANALYST

ALL POSITIONS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING! COME VISIT US.

15th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue,
Makati City
Monday to Saturday, 7AM to 3PM

OPENING OCTOBER 2006
1024 Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue (EDSA)
Quezon City

Email: careersph@vxi.com

VXI VISION-X INC.

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Maybank

Maybank is the largest banking group in Malaysia, one of the top 20 banks in Asia and among the top banks in the world. Backed by over US$50 billion in assets, it is present in major financial centers worldwide, including London, New York and Singapore.

Eight years ago, **Maybank** began to build its team in the Philippines. **Maybank** envisions to be the leading financial solutions provider, committed to meeting and exceeding customer expectations in the target markets it serves.

Join the team that shares this vision. Grow with us.

Training Officers
(Behavioral/OD, Sales, & Technical/Operations)
Senior Sales Executives
Executive Assistant
AS/400 Computer Operator
Sales & Customer Service Relievers

Please email your comprehensive resume with photograph to **recruitment@maybank.com.ph**. You may also hand carry or mail it with your passport–size photo and transcript of records to:

Maybank Philippines, Incorporated
Human Resources
2nd Flr., Legaspi Towers 300
Roxas Blvd. Corner Vito Cruz, Manila

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www.seacom.ph

LWCI is one of the fastest growing companies in the e-commerce industry specializing in managing top US-based home improvement websites. We offer above-average remuneration packages and benefits that include:

- **Allowance packages** (meals, transportation, laundry and medical)
- **Healthcare and life insurance coverage**
- **Attendance incentives**
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LAKE WASHINGTON COMMUNICATIONS, INC SEATTLE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Email: recruitment@seacom.ph
Phone: 02-898-3848
Address: 312 B 3/F LRI Business Plaza,
210 Nicanor Garcia Street,
Bel - Air II, Makati City

The Philippine Branch of a U.S. Construction Company
is looking for the following:

1. **Estimators**: Experienced in architectural and civil take-off; proficient with different computer programs.
2. **Civil Engineers/Architects**: Experienced in fit-out works
3. **Mechanical Engineers**: Experienced in HVAC, plumbing, and fire protection works
4. **Electrical Engineers**: Experienced in facets of high/low voltage work, controls, and other related electrical systems.

PLEASE IMMEDIATELY SEND RESUMÉ WITH 2x2 PICTURE, SALARY HISTORY, AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AT:

P.O. BOX 1804, MCPO, MAKATI CITY.

NCO GROUP RECRUITMENT CENTER

THRU THE ASSISTANCE OF

COUN. JORGE "BOLET" BANAL, JR. DIST III QC

INVITES YOU TO THE EXCLUSIVE

NCO GROUP JOB FAIR

PIZZA HUT BISTRO, GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER

On October 3, 2006 10AM to 2PM

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FIRST 200 APPLICANTS WHO WILL PASS THE FIRST 2 TESTS

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NCO[SM] GROUP

4th Floor Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communications Center,
ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia Ave., Q. C.
Tel. Nos. 981-7564; 981-7586; 981-7557 to 60
manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

October 2-6, 2006 9AM to 5PM

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE AGENTS
TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENTS
CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS
TELEMARKETING AGENTS
COLLECTIONS AGENTS

WORKFORCE MANAGERS
OPERATIONS MANAGERS
WORKFORCE SUPERVISORS
SITE SUPPORT TECHNICIANS
SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGER
HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALIST
TRAINING AND QUALITY MANAGERS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
FACILITIES PERSONNEL
FACILITIES MANAGER
COMPANY NURSES
TEAM MANAGERS
RECRUITERS

Up to Php 18,000 basic rate*
20% Night Differential*
Regularization Incentive*
Meal Benefit
Paid Training
Referral Bonus
Loyalty Program
Recreational Facilities
Performance-based bonus
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Signing Bonus for Telemarketers*

* for agents position

JOB Market

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006
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Thursday 12:00 noon

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Where You Find The Best. ★★★★★

Encouraged by the success of our Pasay Team, we are embarking on a new journey.

We have exceeded growth plans in the Philippines, and continue to expand our investment in the country. And, in our commitment to deliver the best experience to our customers, we are opening our second contact center in Eastwood City, Libis.

That is correct: Dell is expanding to Quezon City, and we are looking for candidates who are willing to grow and build careers at one of the most admired companies in the world. If you are looking for a great challenge and an amazing opportunity to grow with a global leader, we are opening our doors for you.

So step in, and don't be left behind. Our next stop is Quezon City.

NOW HIRING (for Pasay and QC Sites)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES (TSR-PDI)
- Provide telephone support for customers on operations or maintenance of Dell products
- Diagnose problems and provide resolutions for technical service issues
- Minimum of 1 year technical support experience

TEAM MANAGERS - TECHNICAL SUPPORT (TMTS-PDI)
- Manage and develop a team of Technical Support Agents & Resolution Specialists
- Possess at least 2 years supervisory experience in a call center
- Excellent people management skills

TRAINERS (TN-PDI)
- Develop and deliver classroom training
- With at least 1 year experience in handling product/ technical training
- Good presentation and interpersonal skills; excellent verbal and written communication skills

OPERATIONS MANAGERS (OM-PDI)
- Manage second-level and first-level Managers
- Minimum of 6 years total work experience with at least 3 years as a people manager in the call center industry
- Proven experience in communicating effectively across all levels within the organization

To Apply:
Interested candidates should send their resumes (indicating the proper code) to recruitment_mnl@dell.com. You may also visit our Recruitment Center at 27/F, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The Dell Contact Center is located at the newly opened SM Mall of Asia at 2/F North Parking Building, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City, Metro Manila, 1300 Philippines.

DELL™
Consider the possibilities.

RAMCAR GROUP OF COMPANIES

The country's leading manufacturer of Automotive Batteries invites dynamic individuals to apply for the following positions

CENTRAL PLANNING & OPTIMIZATION MANAGER*

- ☑ Male or Female; Engineering degree or related course.
- ☑ MBA Degree is an advantage
- ☑ With excellent analytical, communication & leadership skills.
- ☑ Must have experience on Supply Chain or Logistics Management in a manufacturing set-up.
- ☑ Preferably with knowledge in SAP R3.

MATERIALS PLANNING & SOURCING TEAM LEADER*

- ☑ Male or Female
- ☑ College graduate; preferably Industrial Engineering
- ☑ Experience in Materials Planning and Supply Chain Management is an advantage
- ☑ Computer proficient (especially in Excel)

MATERIALS SOURCING AGENT*

- ☑ Male or Female; 23-28 years old
- ☑ College graduate
- ☑ With at least 3 years experience in Procurement.
- ☑ Chinese speaking

PRODUCTION ENGINEERS/FOREMEN*

- ☑ Male; 20-30 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Mechanical, Chemical or Metallurgical Engineering
- ☑ License is an advantage
- ☑ Preferably with work experience in a Chemical or Manufacturing company.

QA AUDITORS/QS ENGINEERS*

- ☑ Female; 24-28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Chemical, Mechanical or Industrial Engineering
- ☑ With experience in an ISO-certified company
- ☑ Must have background in QC tools

CPA's/AUDITORS

- ☑ Male or Female
- ☑ BS Accountancy Graduate; CPA
- ☑ Preferably with at least 2 years work experience in a manufacturing set-up

Note: Candidate will be based in Quezon City

ASSISTANT ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS*

- ☑ Male, 22-30 years old
- ☑ BS ECE or COE graduate
- ☑ With knowledge in *microprocessor, microcontroller and digital design.*

ASSISTANT MOLD MAKERS*

- ☑ Male; at least 5'5 inches in height
- ☑ Technical course graduate
- ☑ With **3-5** years experience as an Assistant Mold Maker

MACHINISTS*

- ☑ Male, 25-30 years old
- ☑ Technical course graduate
- ☑ With at least 2 years experience in machine shop operations
- ☑ Must have knowledge in the use of various measuring instruments.
- ☑ Can interpret engineering drawings

CNC LATHE OPERATORS*

- ☑ Male; 20-30 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Mechanical Engineering Technology
- ☑ With 2-4 years experience as CNC Operator
- ☑ Must be knowledgeable in CNC milling operation and basic "G Codes" programming
- ☑ Can interpret blue prints

NOTE: All positions with * will be based in Bulacan.

Interested applicants may personally submit their resumé with pictures and copy of Transcript of Records to:

CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (Battery Group)
RAMCAR CENTER, 80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.
or email to: **bcsarmiento@motolite.com** or **corporaterecruitment@motolite.com**

J-SYS Philippines

J-SYS Philippines Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JGC Information Systems Co., Ltd. based in Yokohama, Japan, which is engaged in the design and development of computer integrated manufacturing systems, project management systems and engineering process control systems using Oracle database technology, announces the recruitment of

15 PROGRAMMERS

and

3 TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Qualifications:

- For **Programmers**, must be graduates of engineering or computer-related courses with at least two (2) years experience in Java, MS Visual Basic or Oracle D2000;
- For **Technical Support Specialists**, must be graduates of engineering or computer-related courses with at least two (2) years of work experience in networking and end-user computing support, preferably with knowledge in Lotus Notes administration;
- Has good analytical and problem-solving skills;
- Has good communication and inter-personal skills;
- A self-starter and team player;
- Knowledge in the Japanese language is a plus factor; and
- Must be in perfect health

Successful candidates will be further trained in the Philippines on the latest computer and programming technology as well as on the Japanese language (Nihongo). May be assigned to work on short to long-term projects overseas.

A competitive compensation package as well as travel opportunities await the successful candidates. Interested applicants may come with their resumé and recent 2" x 2" photo between 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. on October 2-20, 2006 for the preliminary examinations to be held at:

J-SYS PHILIPPINES, INC.
JGC Bldg. Annex, 1606 Trade Street corner Investment Drive
Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
Tel. No. 772-3408 – 772-3413

HITACHI PLANT TECHNOLOGIES, LTD.

Philippine Branch

A Branch Office of Hitachi Plant Technologies, Ltd. with Head office in Tokyo, Japan engaged in engineering, manufacturing and industrial infrastructures is in need of:

QA / QC ENGINEER

- Engineering graduate,10 yrs. experience in railway transportation or petrochemical industry and worked in Dubai, UAE;
- Must be able to prepare Method Statement, develop Quality Control Procedures document and compile Inspection Report;
- Familiar with local rules and requirements in Dubai;
- Proficient in English (oral and written).

SAFETY OFFICER

- Engineering graduate,10 yrs. experience in railway transportation or petrochemical industry and worked in Dubai, UAE;
- Familiar with local environmental, health and safety regulations.
- Can liaise with the Authority, Owner Representative, Prime Contractor and relevant parties on environmental, health and safety issues.
- Can prepare Hazard Analysis and Safety Work Procedure;
- Must ensure the Employer's Safety Management System
- Can conduct safety meeting, audit, inspection, orientation and briefing to all site staffs.
- Proficient in English (oral and written).

Due to urgency of requirements, interested applicants are invited to personally submit comprehensive résumé, together with recently taken photograph, school records, and contact telephone number, to:

4th Floor 116 Bldg. V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Attention to HRPA Department
or e-mail at anna_tavios@hitachiplant.com.ph

A Logistics Company is in need of Qualified and Experienced

BROKERAGE MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Experience in Brokerage Operation
- Graduate of Customs Administration from a prestigious university
- Highly Analytical
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills
- Must have interpersonal skills in dealing with concerned offices

Salary is commensurate to experience & qualification.

Submit resumé to:

Office of the President
P.O. Box 4253 Manila
Email to dane4658@yahoo.com

Autoliv

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A worldwide leader in automotive safety and a leader in technology with the widest product of automotive safety is looking for:

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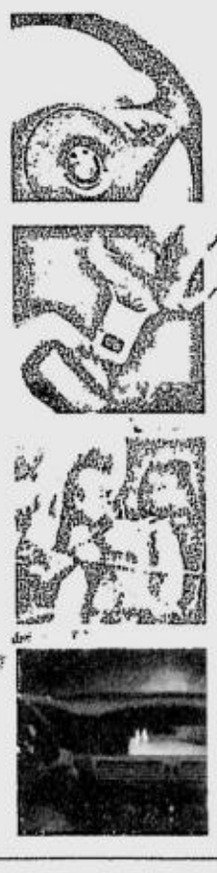

LEATHER ENGINEER

Qualifications:

- **Male at least 25 – 30 yrs old.**
- **Single/Married**
- **Mechanical Engineering graduate preferably with license**
- **Preferably with two (2) years experience as Process Engineer in an Automotive company**
- **Excellent in problem solving and analytical skills**
- **Experience in leather process quality is an advantage**
- **Willing to travel**

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Service providers urged to uphold industry standards

COMPANIES PROVIDING SERVICES AND WORKERS TO clients should always uphold the high legal, ethical and moral standards of the industry to benefit themselves, their clients and the workers.

This was emphasized by lawyer Giovanni H. Melgar, president of the 57-member Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors, Inc. (PALSCON), in a speech at the whole-day conference on "The Legal Aspects of Service Contract: Service Providers and Manpower Cooperatives" on Sept. 21 at the Legend Villas, Mandaluyong City.

This was the first conference on the subject sponsored by PALSCON.

Melgar outlined the three types of services which PALSCON renders to principals which in turn see them as models of industry, namely, independent service contracting, personnel placement services, and personnel training services – all in compliance with the Labor Code and other measures protecting the workers.

"These are the kinds of services which continue to gain the trust and confidence of thousands of leading companies in the Philippines being served since PALSCON was organized in 1987," the lawyer, who is also president of Wizard Manpower and Allied Services, Inc., added.

Comparing service providers belonging to PALSCON member-companies, with so-called "manpower cooperatives" which are mostly involved in labor-only contracting, Melgar said the former adheres to the Labor Code and other laws protecting workers while the latter have been penalized for violating the Labor Code and, in some cases, circumventing the Cooperative Code of the Philippines, as in the case of San Miguel Corporation (SMC) versus Aballa et. al., where the 97 workers supplied by Sun Flower Multi-Purpose Cooperative in the SMC shrimp processing plant were declared by the Supreme Court as workers of SMC.

Melgar also emphasized that PALSCON is "a professional organization of service providers engaged in the staffing business which provide private and public corporations their requirements for talented and skilled workers, e. g., project, temporary, casual and regular workers.

During the same conference, lawyer Rebecca C. Chato, officer-in-charge of the Department of Labor and Employment's Bureau of Labor Relations, said manpower cooperatives engaged in "manpower outsourcing business" cannot claim that Department Order No. 18-02 which governs contracting and sub-contracting arrangements does not apply to them.

The Labor Code prohibits labor-only contracting, Chato said, defining this as an arrangement where the contractor or subcontractor merely recruits, supplies or places workers to perform a job, work or service, even without a substantial capital and not exercising the right to control the workers and their work performance.

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How to deal with headhunters in RP

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

THE WORD "HEADHUNTER" is a slang used in the executive search profession to indicate someone who essentially matches people and jobs (i.e. hunting heads). If you have never dealt with one, you may have this star-struck idea that these talent managers hold the very key to your success. It may be true to a certain degree, but headhunters are quite human too and can make the same mistakes you do. As such, it is important to know what to expect from them and how to deal well with these star-makers.

Loyalty to the client

A lot of people have complained about not getting the right response from a headhunter. Don't expect the royal treatment unless your qualifications prove to be the perfect match for a particular job requirement. It is the client who commissions the job search to the headhunter. The client also pays for the deal once it is closed. As such, it is but natural for headhunters to be focused on the job requirement rather than the candidate. The ultimate goal is to match a job and candidate. If your CV matches the need, you will get a call. Sometimes, headhunters will go to extremes just to find you. If your CV does not fit the immediate requirement, you may not hear from them at all.

Create own rules

The industry is not highly regulated and there are no set professional standards. As such, you may discover different ways that headhunters do business. Each consultant has his own style of handling your CV. Some are quite ready to forward your CV to just about anyone while others take the time to get your approval prior to sending. It is essentially a question of trust. Make sure that you have full confidence in the consultant you are dealing with before you send out your personal details.

Get percentage of your salary

Since headhunters do get paid a percentage of your first annual salary, it is but natural for them to aim for the highest deal possible. Of course, some headhunters also have the diligence to consider their client's interests as well. In short, the headhunter can be your ally when it comes to closing the deal as he also gets a share of the pie.

Can make you a star

Since headhunters are in a position to see what the latest job openings are, they have the capacity to help you along with your career, that is, if you have what they are looking for. Your professional relationship with a headhunter is crucial. It is quite difficult to recommend someone you hardly know. If you have a reasonably good working relationship with a headhunter, you will most likely be remembered for future opportunities.

Headhunters are deal makers

The relationship with a headhunter is usually short term and based on a deal. After the candidate is hired, it will be a while before another job opportunity may be given to the candidate. Don't take it personally if the headhunter moves on to another project soon after your deal is closed. It's just how the business runs. Headhunters are paid on the deal and are under a lot of pressure to produce a certain volume. Don't be surprised if your friendly headhunter doesn't turn out to be your long-running best friend after all. On the other hand, some people do end up as good friends.

Headhunters can boost your career. The critical thing is to choose your relationships well. Ultimately, you will be entrusting your personal details, including your salary information as well as secret ambitions, to a stranger—perhaps someone you just met last week. It is imperative that you take the time to research and find out about the company or consultant you are dealing with. After all, your career is definitely at stake.

(The author worked as an executive search consultant for ZMG Signium Ward Howell, among others.)

'To get a raise, be successful, to get a promotion make others successful'

By Ryan Kaliph C. Buenafe
Contributor

"HOW DID YOU GET THE promotion?"

In the last three years, friends, family members and even envious colleagues asked me this question at least five times. At 21, I went from representative to trainer. Later that year to group supervisor. At 22, I became a training officer, then later to training consultant. At 23, I was promoted to HR manager. Today, at 24, I am the senior manager for leadership.

My story is not so uncommon—nowadays there are senior ops managers under 30, directors under 35, and CEOs barely over 40—a changing landscape of leaders brought about by the BPO (business process outsourcing) industry.

Much has been said about the BPO/call center industry's growth and expansion. Pioneers in the industry, back when outbound telemarketing was all the rage and the industry was barely at 40,000 employees, will tell you about how people they started out with are now big names for many of the new call centers that are being developed. The industry has changed, evolved, and in most cases matured. Many sites have had to deal with their own "growing pains." As the pool of qualified applicants become scarcer, retention and acquisition programs have become more aggressive. As the number of employees grow, so must the number of supervisors and managers.

Hiring supervisors and managers directly from external sources poses several problems, from bloated salaries, lack of loyalty, to cutting down opportunities for internal promotions. Many call centers use buzz words like "internal promotion or career development yet very few actually put it to practice. To date, few companies actively invest, develop, maintain and strengthen leadership development programs within the firm. Often it is a matter of "hope" that the best representatives make the best supervisors, which will make the best managers.

I've never been one to criticize the "top gun" approach, I believe it works as long as the top guns actively develop future top guns. All too often, employees have to self-study and self-develop after failing to succeed in their position. They pick up books like "The One Minute Manager, Zapp!" or "From Good to Great." But this is no guarantee for success.

The answer I give when asked how I got a promotion is simple. I tell them, "to get a raise, be successful, to get a promotion make others successful." Often in the workplace the "me" mentality hinders organizational success. By nature, people are fearful that by making others successful, they will eventually lose out on promotions to these people and will be cast down to the lower levels of the corporate hierarchy. This "crab mentality" is not only what holds individuals back from being successful but also the companies that they represent.

To create a culture of success, you must prepare people for success. Investing time in your employees and direct reports is just as important as time spent on the satisfaction of external customers. Often in the leadership development training which I design and conduct, I like to leave my audience with this final message, "The most important time of your day, is the time spent developing others."

(The author is senior manager for leadership at ClientLogic. Feedback at ryankaliph.buenafe@clientlogic.com.ph)

Pot-bellied pig

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I WAS SO AMUSED WATCHING AN ANIMAL SHOW WHERE A POT-bellied pig performed. This funny looking swine would instinctively open its mouth to receive the reward food from the trainer for every entertaining trick it did. Sometimes, it would hesitate to do the next act as if waiting for an "advance payment" for its work; but when given another food serving it would readily accomplish the task. It was obvious that it was the reward—the favorite food—that motivated the animal to do the show. I think the pot-bellied pig would continue on its "career" as an entertainer because of the reward it always hopes to enjoy. The reward somehow seems to give meaning to its life.

Every worker, I believe, also expects rewards for his job. And like the pot-bellied pig, some workers are motivated to work by the amount of salary and benefit they would receive. They would, perhaps, even gauge their dignity and status in society through the number of digits in their paychecks. They would seem to measure their success and satisfaction by the quantity of material returns they gain from their job or profession. The greater the reward, measured by the standards of the world, the higher they think they stand among their peers. Yet, in reality and deep within their hearts, they would feel some kind of "emptiness," which is not filled by material rewards.

Christ promised another kind of reward for those who believe in Him and His words and do any little act/work for His sake and for those who belong to Him—other believers. Perhaps today is a good time as any to ask ourselves: do we aim for Christ's rewards or only for rewards like those that satisfy the pot-bellied pig? *(E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

For Christ's sake!

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

OUR VERSE FOCUS FOR TODAY—THAT WHICH ALWAYS PRECEDES our column—makes for an interesting reflection at the workplace. Because we are basically at work for ourselves, to earn for the needs of our families, we don't normally put our coworkers' interests or needs before our own, let alone do it for Christ's sake. Extending "a cup of water to drink"—read that as "a helping hand"—to someone because we believe that someone "belongs to Christ" is hardly a popular thought in the workplace where employers simply expect us to do our work to earn our pay, period.

In our culture "For Christ's sake" seems to have become a mere phrase adopted from our colonizers' language, not a principle that can empower us to be the best that we can be. But if as baptized Christians we are real enough to follow Christ, we can do as today's Gospel says even in the workplace, and be rewarded for it. Now what is that "reward?" A promotion? A pat in the back from the boss? Popularity? A promise of a favor returned? No—because if that is what we expect for "giving a cup to drink..." We do not really see the coworker we're helping as one who "belongs to Christ." Ergo, we are not giving for Christ's sake.

Giving because we can see the recipient as belonging to Christ—even if he's the nastiest coworker around—is giving for Christ's sake, an act that is its own reward. Unlike a pay envelope that we can touch, this kind of reward is subtle and manifests itself as peace of mind, as serenity, in knowing that out of love we have been true to our claim of being a follower of Christ. This kind of reward is like a seed—you can't see it working because it's buried in the ground but nurtured it does grow to bear fruit in due time: transforming a dog-eat-dog workplace into a productive world of justice and harmony. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

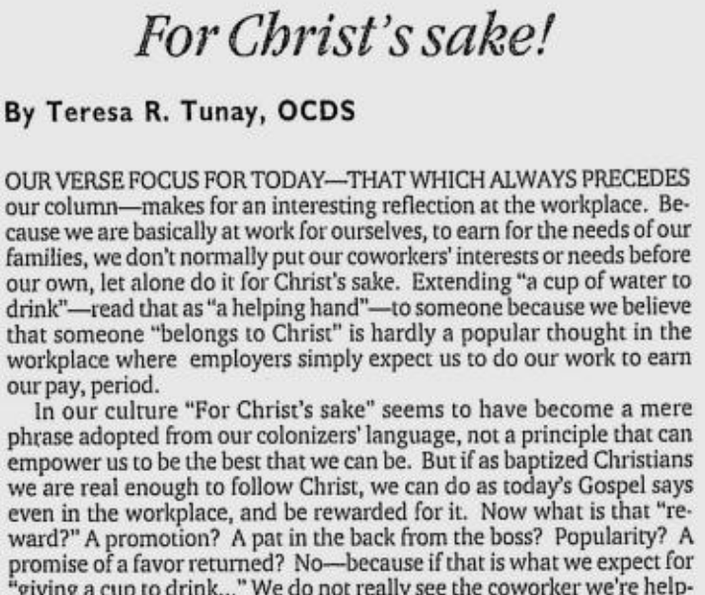


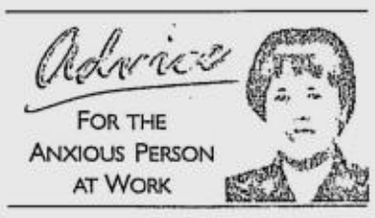
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel. Mk 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

Perennial job hopper needs help!

By Tita Datu Puangco



I GRADUATED FROM A WELL-known college with a pre-med degree two years ago. Since then I have gone through four jobs, never staying for more than a few months in each. When I start on a new job I always hope that I'll be staying for good but barely a few weeks later things start to go wrong. My first two jobs were in a call center. The reason I left my first job was due to management policies that I deemed unreasonable. I rendered my resignation but unfortunately the management did not recognize it, so I lasted three months. In my second call center, I lasted five months. I did not have any problems with the company but I left because I wanted to review for the medicine proper exams.

A few months ago I started on my third job as a medical representative. When I started, I didn't sign any contract, but due to some misunderstanding with my supervisor and unfulfilled promise about my compensation package, I left after two months. Now I'm on my fourth job in a hospital practicing what I took up in college. I'm considered a volunteer since I won't be receiving monthly wages, just an allowance. But since I started a few weeks ago, I haven't received any confirmation on my status from the HR department nor signed any legal documents and that means that I won't be receiving any allowance or any kind of compensation.

I enjoy working in a hospital setting but the free work I've been doing is draining my finances. I want to look for a new job, one that will give me compensation for all my efforts. But I am reluctant to apply to a company due to my colorful past. I don't know what to include and not to include in my resumé. Do I not include my first job any more since that didn't end up well but how about my third and my current job? Can I include them? I feel uncomfortable when asked about my previous work since they will be asking why I left the company in the first place and I don't want to relive the past and explain myself all over again.

People keep telling me that, since I'm still young, it's normal for a person my age to jump from one job to another. But personally I don't think that it's okay. Please help me; I really need your advice.

Job Hopper

Thank you for your letter. I suggest you reduce your swollen expectations about life and work. If you have a need to get steady income, then determine your minimum criteria for the job you desire. Doing this, you have to know your personality type, the type of skills you possess and the kind of work you desire. I noted that your work engagements lacked clarity at the starting stage. When you negotiate for your job package, write down the agreements and don't hesitate to clarify the conditions, including compensation, with the hiring officer.

Obviously, you have no problem being considered or accepted for work. What you need to work on would be your ability to be internally rather than externally directed. This means you have the ability to motivate yourself so that you are able to take control or influence your environment. Do not get easily discouraged but try to work things out by being more assertive.

You are right to feel uneasy about switching jobs four times in such a short period of time. Most human resource practitioners would be cautious to hire someone like you. So the next time you get a job, try to stick to it for at least two years—one year to learn the job and another year to fully contribute to the job. If you are able to last longer than two years, so much the better for you and the company that will hire you.

Now on whether to write your brief stints in your resumé or not is a decision you have to make by yourself. Did you acquire valuable skills and competencies in those jobs? Then include those in your resumé. If not long enough to earn or learn anything, don't. I don't think that you were officially hired as a medical representative if you did not have a job contract. You may have been classified as a trainee perhaps?

When I was in the elementary, I came across a poem that I memorized by heart. It is entitled, " Don't Quit." Let me share with you the first stanza. "When things go wrong, as they sometimes will. When the road you are trudging seems all uphill. When the funds are low and the debts are high. And you want to smile but you have to sigh. When care is pressing you down a bit. Rest if you must but don't you quit." God bless.

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company. Feedback at advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax 892-2902.)

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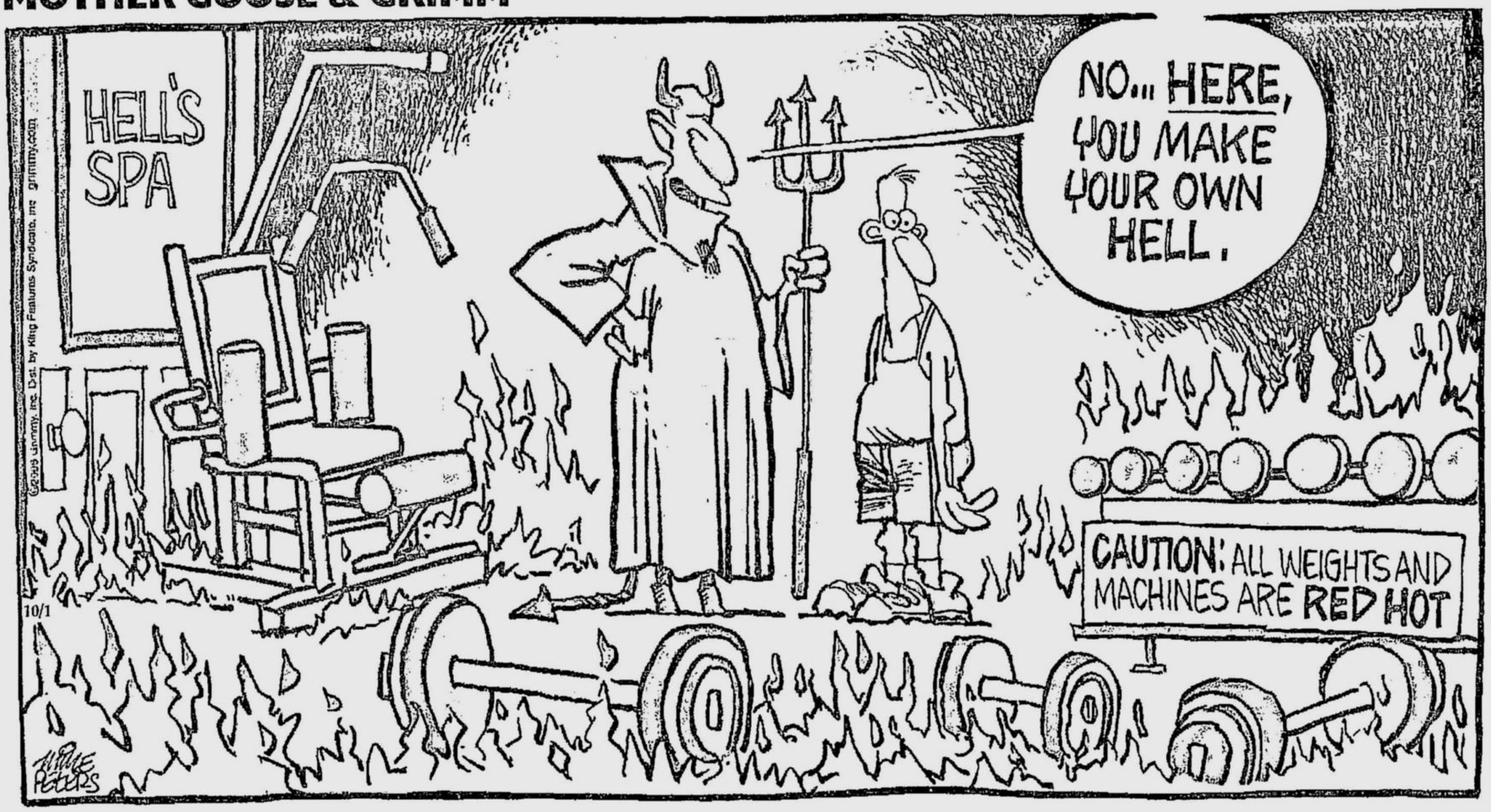

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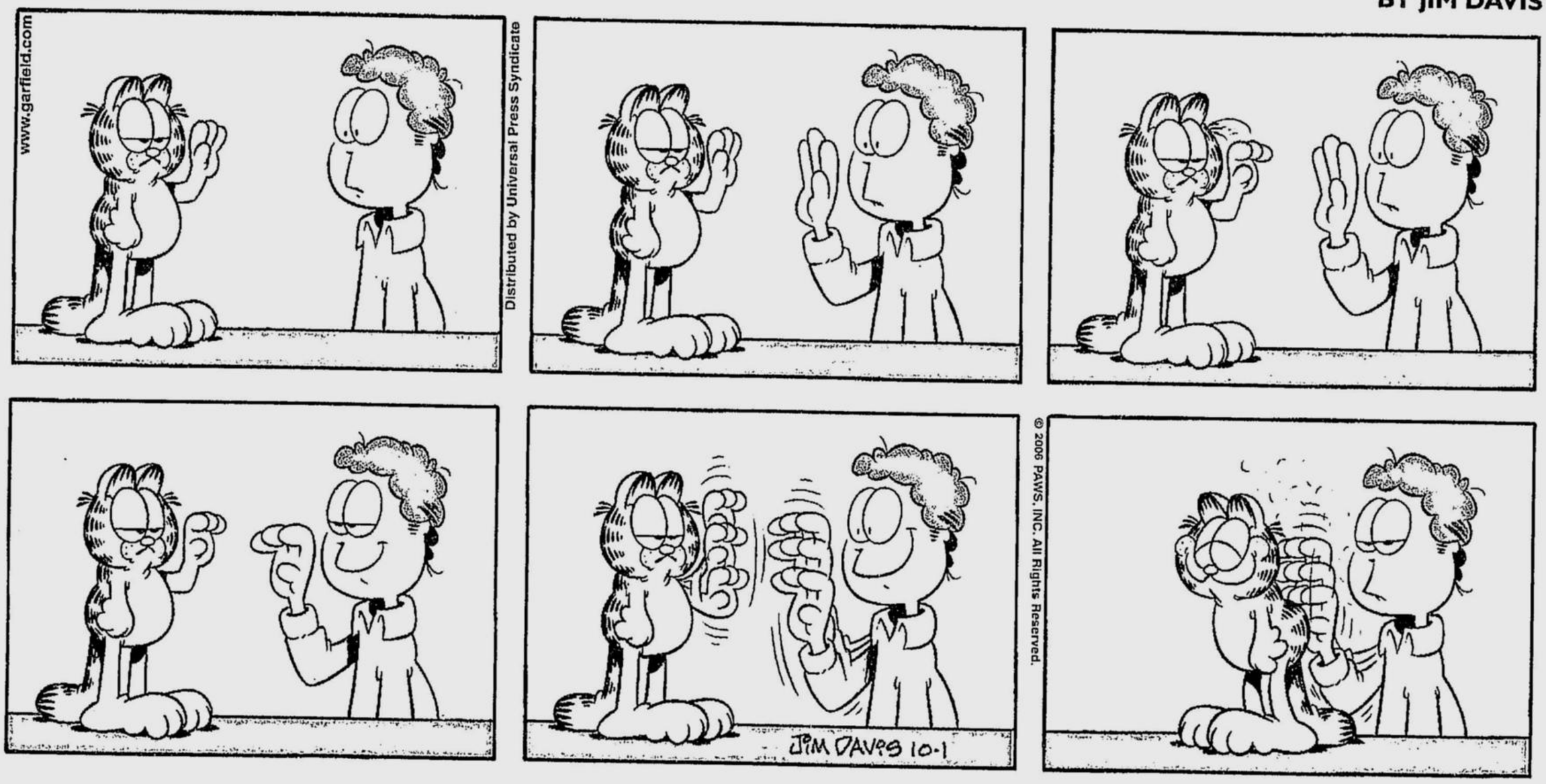


FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

October 1, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

The R'n'B princess is now a queen

With a live album turning septuple platiinum and a new one taking her even further, the little girl who studied accounting between gigs is now a soul siren with a legion of fans, a high-profile love life—and the confidence that comes with the turf

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

LET it not be said that Nina is not a trouper.

Though running a fever—in fact, coming straight from an emergency visit to her doctor—she decided to go on with the Sunday INQUIRER shoot, before proceeding to a club date that night where she sang a full one-hour set to a packed crowd of enthusiastic fans.

As the makeup artist did his magic, transforming tiny Marifil Nina Girado into Nina, slinky soul siren, for some reason the words to "This Girl Has Turned Into A Woman," a particularly cheesy disco-era chestnut by one-hit wonder Mary MacGregor, popped into my head—further evidence of the kind of lasting damage inflicted by enforced listening to "the mellow touch" in jeepneys, waiting rooms and massage parlors.

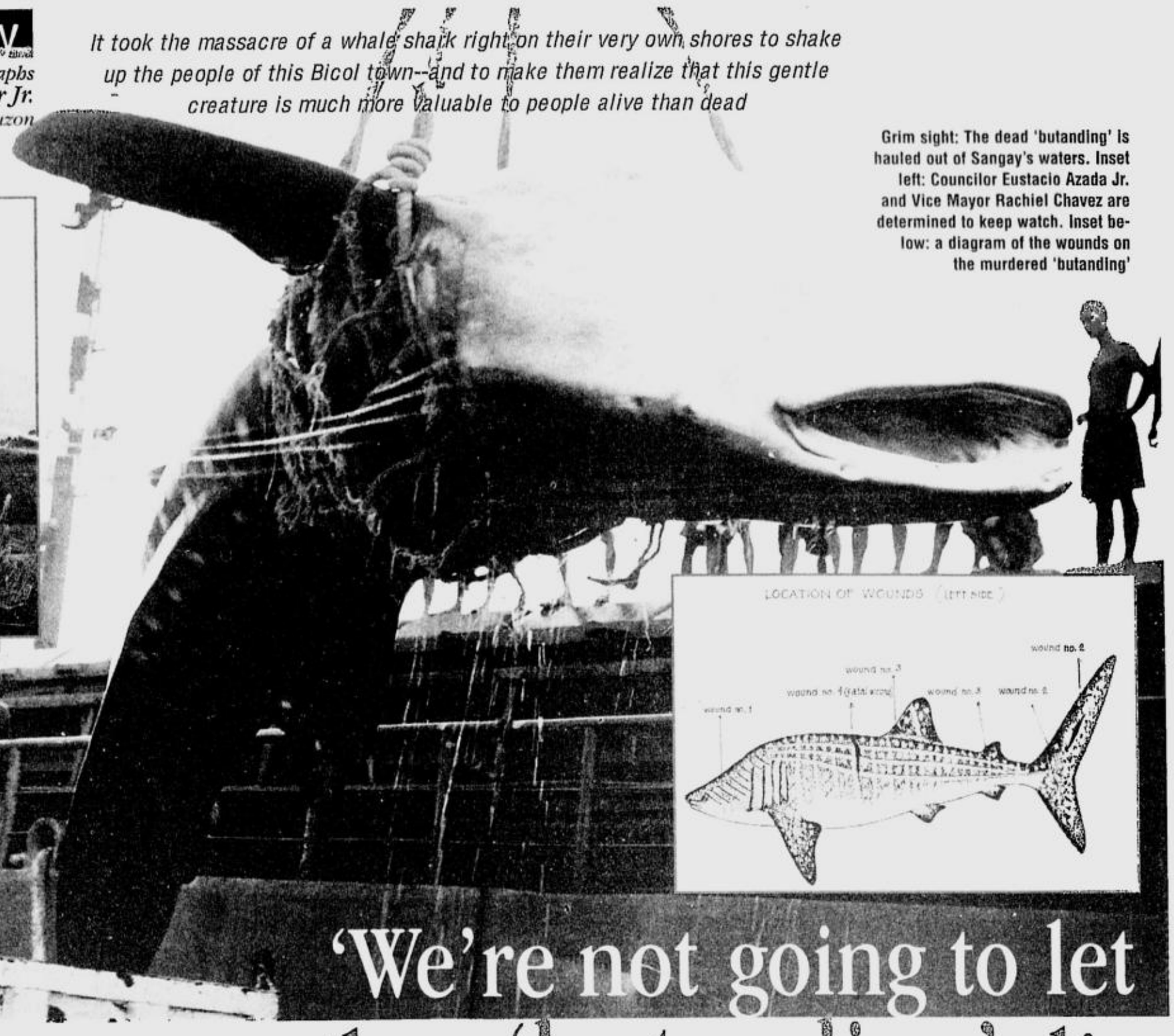
To page 6

Getting comfy: Nina with beloved cat Mariah

A 'racist' death in Toronto, *p.3* A dazzling design by Herrera, *p.4* A sad tune for Alamid, *p.5*

Text and photographs
by Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

It took the massacre of a whale shark right on their very own shores to shake up the people of this Bicol town--and to make them realize that this gentle creature is much more valuable to people alive than dead



Grim sight: The dead 'butanding' is hauled out of Sangay's waters. Inset left: Councilor Eustacio Azada Jr. and Vice Mayor Rachiel Chavez are determined to keep watch. Inset below: a diagram of the wounds on the murdered 'butanding'

'We're not going to let another 'butanding' die

SAÑGAY, Camarines Sur—When a female whale shark or *butanding* recently died from fatal wounds inflicted by a fisherman, the local government in this Bicol town immediately filed a case in court against her killer to remind people that it is a crime to kill a whale shark.

Sangay Vice Mayor Rachiel B. Chavez says they filed the case to show that they did not condone the killing, even if the accused claimed he was ignorant of the law. "We want to erase the impression that the people here are whale shark killers," he stresses. In all seven coastal villages of this town, billboards have quickly gone up, warning people of the presence of the protected marine species.

"The penalties for violating the law will be posted, as well, and the local government here will intensify the present information dissemination campaign regarding the fisheries law," Chavez says.

Heinous crime

It's a heinous crime against nature that has saddened many Bicolanos in this "home province" of the *butanding*, and Chavez is taking great pains to right the wrong. The 29-year-old vice mayor has been at the forefront of the environmental campaign in their town since he was elected in 1996 as representative of the Sangguniang Kabataan to the municipal council. Chavez has also headed conservation efforts in the coastal areas, especially in Atulayan Island, where tree planting activities have been a regular effort.

Chavez finished his political science course in 1997, completed his law studies in 2005, and just recently took the bar examinations. "If I pass the bar," the official vows, "I will specialize in the fisheries law to defend the 'rights' of protected marine species and double my efforts to advocate for their protection."

The *butanding*'s death in Sangay hogged headlines and horrified TV viewers who caught sight of its hacked, dying body on the national news. But from all indications, her death may not have been in vain, as it has significantly raised the conservation awareness of this town's residents—and will hopefully save the lives of other *butanding* that constantly visit this small town some 494 kilometers south of Manila.

While a greater number of whale sharks have congregated annually in the Bicol town of Donsol, Sorsogon, where they have become a revenue-generating tourist attraction and are fiercely protected by the locals, recent events—including, some believe, the rumblings of Mayon Volcano—have sent more of the animals swimming to other parts of the province. One was even recently spotted in the waters off Ilocos, where local fishermen have thankfully been protecting the animal.

A dangerous place

The *butanding*'s death last September 7 stirred the whole town to fight the stigma of being branded "a dangerous place" for this gentle creature. This led to the establishment of the first Whale Shark Cemetery in the country, which, officials say, marks the commitment of the people here to protect her species from harm. The whale shark cemetery is located in the village of Sto. Niño, where the giant fish died. At the very least, the quaint memorial could serve as a reminder that the officials here are determined not to let the crime happen again.

Through her old wounds, the whale shark was identified as the one trapped and freed from a deep sea fish corral in August in the waters of the nearby town of San Jose, according to municipal fisheries officer Hilaria Cornelio.

The whale shark, estimated to be about 30 to 40 years of age, might have gone through several other life-threatening situations before finally meeting her end. Her attacker happened to be one of the villagers who crowded the beach when she was again trapped in the loop of a beach seine, this time in Sangay. She was hacked with a bolo, even as villagers swarmed upon her attacker and warned him to stop.

Legacy

The *butanding* is a legacy that the Bicolanos would do well to value and protect. As far as the fisherfolk can remember, whale sharks in the waters of Lagonoy Gulf have been as regular and common as the anchovies seen here in the months of September to February. Lagonoy Gulf is the second largest body of water in the country, lying on the eastern portion of Camarines Sur, stretching down south to Albay and northeast to the island-province of Catanduanes, covering an area of 3,071 square kilometers.

Fisherman Victor Payago, 38, reveals that at the start of the six-month anchovy season, the whale sharks would start coming and feeding in the fishing grounds where they cast their nets. "When whale sharks are sighted, we can be sure that there are already anchovies in our waters," Payago says.

The fish understands

He says the fisherfolk here have taken pains to protect the sharks, especially since the ban on its slaughter, even sacrificing portions of their own nets. Talking of his own encounters, Payago reveals how they would dive into the water and coax the whale shark out of the net enclosure. He claims the giant fish always seems to understand their intention, and obediently follows them out, once guided to safety.

Already, some locals are fearing nature's retribution for the killing. Carmen Bono, a member of the village council of Sto. Niño, believes the death of the whale shark will bring them bad luck. Several years ago, Bono says, a tidal wave occurred when a female whale shark was killed on the same shore as the last one.

Marine biologist Tristan C. Paylado, chief of the BFAR coastal Resource management section, says the presence of whale sharks in the waters of Lagonoy Gulf and the adjoining Albay Gulf has only been recently documented, and they have yet to conduct studies to establish if this will indeed be a regular occurrence for certain periods of the year.

More hospitable

But Chavez stresses that even in the absence of a study, based on the stories of Sangay's old timers, they are almost certain that whale sharks are regular visitors in their town—thus, the need to be more hospitable.

The vice mayor fears that the whale shark killing has put the whole town in a bad light, but it has also renewed the government's determination to keep their marine resources conservation and protection program going.

Chavez plans to integrate whale shark watching into their tourism program. He has found support in Councilor Eustacio Azada Jr., 67, who became one of the staunch advocates of whale shark preservation when the fisheries law of 1998 was passed. Ironically, Azada was moved to join the cause when he learned about the animal from television. "Its presence in our waters could be both a source of pride and an opportunity to cash in on our tourism program," he says.

The councilor plans to push for a comprehensive environmental and marine species protection program in Sangay, which already relies heavily on tourism revenue from its beaches and islands.

Hopefully, Sangay—and other towns in Bicol where the *butanding* might make an occasional appearance—would learn from this senseless death, and take on the role of nature's stewards instead of its destroyers.

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Editor in Chief	**Alya B. Honasan**
Managing Editor	**Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
Associate Editor	**Ruel S. De Vera**
Staff Writer	**Eric S. Caruncho**
Graphic Designer	**Chuchie Quevedo-See**
Design Consultant	**Lynett A. Villariba**
Editorial Assistant	**Sharon M. Felipe**
Advertising & Sales Manager	**Kenny Nuyda**

THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

My Uncle, The Judge

Coming home from the hospital
Surving a near-death asthma attack,
He, my uncle, known for being a 75er
In the bar exams some 30 years ago,
The family's black sheep,
Having impregnated the maid and denying
The child of a father, and now
The town judge, is my first
Guest. He holds my hand, as he had
On many occasions—when the president declared
Martial law in '72, after Grandma died in '73,
After Dad's funeral in '84—and tells me
I'm all right. We talk of his poultry farm
And mushroom culture, the way things grow
In heat and in rain and how short
Life is. He shares what he had read
Recently about coping with asthma
Through a deep breathing technique. Quoting
Passages from law books and the Bible, he raises
Questions about justice in a time
Of picnic revolutions. Then in whispers:
Should he be paying revolutionary tax
To the No-Permanent-Addressees when the recent flood
Had brought our ready-to-harvest bangus
To the ocean? Again he looks at me straight
In the eye and tells me I must thank
God He gave me a new life. And yes,
Not to forget the celebration on Sunday
After next: It's his 67th year, and he laughs
Before he goes. And so two weeks after
The party at his residence three houses away
From our ancestral home, I heard his wife
And children cry out his name in the dead
Of night in the heat of April. His heart gave up
In his last asthma attack.

Herminio S. Beltran, Jr.

Twists of Fate

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

It took the killing of 17-year-old Jeffrey Reodica to rouse the laid-back Fil-Canadians in Toronto into action. Two years later, the boy's family and friends are still grieving, but the affected community has managed to turn the crisis into political clout

A 'racist' death in immigrant paradise

Rude awakening: (Clockwise from top left) Jeffrey with nephew Ty; a downtown Toronto rally for justice; it took Det. Dan Belanger only 27 seconds to engage Jeffrey and shoot him thrice

TWO years after their youngest son, Jeffrey, was shot dead by a Toronto police officer, Flora and Willie Reodica have yet to get over the shock of seeing their carefully-nurtured Canadian dream turn into a nightmare.

Like most professionals seeking better opportunities abroad, Flora, 55, migrated to Canada in 1976 and got married shortly after to Willie, 54, whom she had petitioned on a fiancé visa. Flora, who used to be with the National Police Commission and San Miguel Corporation (SMC), now works as an insurance agent in Toronto. Willie, a Marketing major who also used to work with SMC, got into real estate and once made an unsuccessful run for the city council.

The Reodicas who have become naturalized Canadian citizens have three children: Robyn, now 28; Joel, 25, and Jeffrey, 17. They have a grandson, Ty, now 7. "All the kids spoke Filipino at home," proudly declares Flora. And though all of them were born in Canada, the three were brought up to have a healthy respect for authority, she adds.

Altar boy

Jeffrey Michael Rich, their youngest, had the attentions of a *yaya*, but he was far from being spoiled, Willie reveals. The boy, an above average Grade 11 student at the Jean Vanier Catholic School, had played the sax, worked at Krispy Kreme donuts to save up for a class trip to Nice, France, loved basketball, and was a former altar boy at the St. Rose of Lima parish. He was also active with the Youth for Christ group, adds his father.

Which was why they could not believe it when police informed them that Jeffrey had been shot thrice in the back by Det. Constable Dan Belanger on May 21, 2004, allegedly for swinging at the officer with a knife when confronted about a brawl with a group of white kids.

Filipinos in Toronto have described Jeffrey's killing as one that involved racism.

According to eyewitnesses quoted in the May 6, 2006 issue of The Toronto Star, "the incident that started the trouble was initiated by a group of white youths trying to drive away a number of young Filipinos playing basketball behind St. Rose of Lima school, claiming the court was their turf. One was quoted as saying, 'Go back to where you came from and eat your rice.'"

Flora quoted other witnesses as saying that the white boys had asked to join a basketball game, but that when the mostly Asian kids gave them the ball, the white boys ran off with it. The next day, the Asian kids wanted to get even and chased down the white boys.

"Jeffrey wasn't even with that original group of basketball players," says his mother. "On May 21, he was going to a friend's party when he saw some kids chasing down some white youth. His friends said he decided to join the chase because some white kid had previously hurt a cousin."

Burly relatives

Witnesses during the coroner's inquest said that at that point, the white boys called 911 and that Belanger and Police Constable Allen Love arrived shortly after. The two plainclothesmen had come in an unmarked car, but identified themselves as police to the white boys. They did not do so to Jeffrey and his group, who had mistaken them for burly relatives of the white boys out to harm them.

Recounting the 911 account of the event, Reodica lawyer Barry Swadron said that, while the police officer merely told one of the white boys to put down his baseball bat, "he grabbed and arrested Jeffrey, who had quickly put down the rock he was holding when told to do so."

What happened next was graphically described by the posters carried by Jeffrey's supporters during the subsequent marches and rallies demanding a coroner's inquest on his case: "It took Belanger approximately 27 seconds to engage Jeffrey and shoot him three times in the back."

The swell of public support for Jeffrey helped speed up response to the Reodica family's request for a coroner's inquest, which began on May 8 this year. Says Willie: "The pressure has been tremendous, so it took us only two years to get an inquest while others usually have to wait as long as five years."

In the Jeffrey Reodica memorial website, Dr. James Edwards, the regional supervising coroner of Toronto, was quoted as saying, "We expedited (the inquest) because there was so much community interest in the case."

Justice for Jeffrey

Much of that community interest was generated by individual supporters and over 160 organizations that compose the Justice for Jeffrey coalition, according to the website. "These organizations participated in about 14 weeks of intensive appeal to the province and its officials for an inquest, an investigative process meant to probe the events that have led to a controversial death in the community, with the view of avoiding similar incidents in the future."

But it is not a criminal trial and cannot overturn the ruling of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) that earlier exonerated the two police officers involved in the incident, saying that they had acted with reasonable force because Jeffrey allegedly presented a threat to the police.

The Filipino community has described the ruling as a "whitewash," and have clamored for a change in the membership of the SIU, which is composed mostly of retired police officers. "What can you expect? Of course they will protect their own," says the older Reodica.

Spontaneous outpouring

But Jeffrey's death has mobilized the community on a scale, described by former Manila-based journalist Hermie Garcia, now publisher-editor of The Philippine Reporter in Toronto, as "a first in the history of Filipinos in Canada." There was a lot of coverage in the mainstream media, a community town hall meeting, rallies and marches and a vigil at the site of the fatal shooting that was attended by Dudley Laws, "the long-time leader of the black community in Toronto," he adds. *"Galit talaga ang Pinoy,* (the Filipinos were really angry)and there was spontaneous outpouring of support for Jeffrey," says Garcia.

The outrage from the Filipino community came as a surprise to most Toronto officials, notes Mila Garcia, also a former Manila-based journalist, now a research analyst and co-publisher and managing editor of the Philippine Reporter.

In "The Road to Empowerment: Moving from Crisis to Community Capacity Building," a paper co-written with Dr. Philip Kelly of York University, Garcia documents the rise in social consciousness among the mostly middle-class Fil-Canadian migrant community in Toronto as a result of the Reodica case. She notes: "In Canadian society in general, the Filipino community is seen as relatively laid-back, docile, polite, nice, obedient, servile, non-confrontational, and generally uninvolved or disengaged in Canadian politics—as gleaned in its lack, if not absence, of representation in the three levels of government. One of the most blunt observations coming from a respected friend of the community—a former member of the Police Services Board—was his comment that Filipinos do not count in this society because they do not have any clout—meaning economic and political power."

Subtle racism

The Reodica killing also underscores the subtle racism that still runs through most of Canada's society, claims Flor Dandal of the Kababayan Community Centre. While Canada is known for its progressive laws, including its recognition of gay marriages, racism remains a challenge that migrants have to contend with, she says, citing a previous incident that involved Filipinos and some black youths.

"It happened at the Scarborough Town Centre," Dandal says of the biggest mall in the Toronto area. Unknown to the parents, the mall management had unofficially banned Filipino youths from hanging out in the place. "It seems there was trouble between the Pinoys and the blacks, and since the Filipinos were known to be more docile, they banned our youths, who were also harassed, questioned and detained in the mall's security office."

The same unequal treatment was evident in the Jeffrey case, says his father. "The white boys were allowed to go home after the shooting, while the Asian boys were herded to the police station and questioned until midnight, with no food or drinks and without their parents being informed."

Willie also questions the SIU's contention that his son had a knife. "If the knife had belonged to Jeffrey, then how come it had none of his fingerprints?" Adds Flora: "And why shoot him? He was no criminal, he doesn't

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PHOTOGRAPHS FROM www.jeffrey.com/reodica

The family in happier times: (From left) Joel, Ty, Jeffrey, Flora, Willie and Robyn

by Alya B. Honasan
photographs by Ryan Lim

It's creativity times two for these twin designers, but each has a style all his own

John and Paul Herrera are winning fashionista fans with their creations: One is making beautifully constructed dresses with avant-garde flair, the other is crafting exquisite accessories that are all glitter and drama

'We respect each other': John (left) and Paul Herrera; above right, their clothes and accessories can complement each other

THEY MAY be identical twins, but it's actually not difficult to tell 24-year-old designers John and Paul Herrera apart. John, the forward-thinking fashion designer, is thinner, with spiky hair and an equally edgy intensity to his manner and work. He admires the somber styles and dark palette of Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo, prefers "the absence of color," and goes for what he calls "cardiac arrest." "You see a piece, then it's only when you look closely that you notice the details and say, 'Oh!'"

Paul, five minutes younger and a gifted accessories designer, has a more cherubic face, is admittedly more sociable ("He makes *chika* all my clients," John says with a sigh), and is more given to whimsy. "I like things more visually arresting, more glitzy. And I like movement."

Paul admits, however, that John "is one of my idols," while John marvels at how "very, very professional" Paul is. "This relationship is working despite the difference in style," John says, "because we have high respect for each other." Not to mention large doses of talent, winning personalities and a work ethic that's taking this creative tandem places, both individually and together.

Number-crunching family

They grew up as close as identical twins could be, from both their accounts. Born to an engineer father and a schoolteacher mother, the two youngest children in a brood of six grew up in a family of number crunchers. "We both went into computer science, because all our siblings are into web design, and our only sister is a math major," John recalls.

There were early indications, during grade school at Marist and high school at the Marikina Science High School, that theirs would be a more creative path, however. "You think you were just this weird guy who liked to play with dolls," John says. "In Grade 2, I asked my friend's mother to sew a dress for my sister's Barbie doll. One look at it, and I knew the quality was bad, so I took it apart and fixed it."

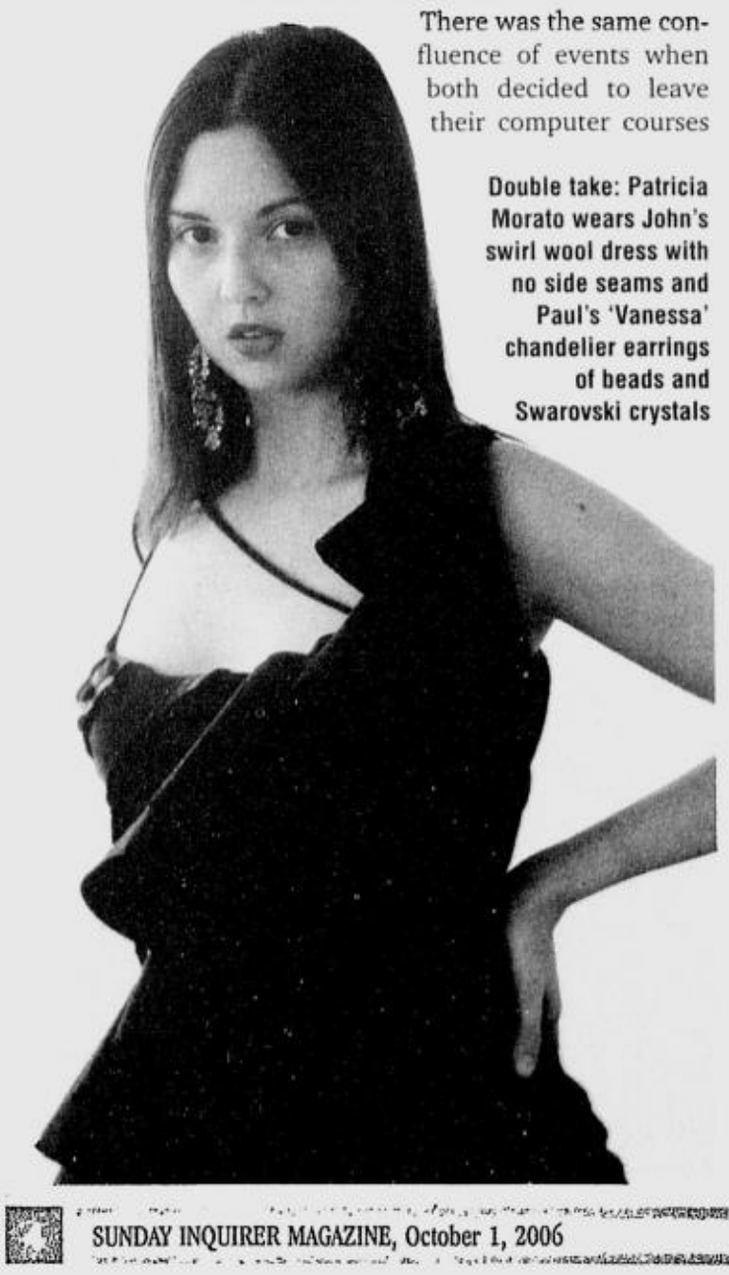
For his part, Paul was already sketching costumes all over the place. "The highlight was this recycling contest we had in high school, and I came in second to John. All of those projects? *Kina*-career *talaga namin* (we would really take them seriously)!"

They remained close growing up, except for a time in high school when they drifted apart. "Paul was always the smarter twin—he was getting honors while I barely passed. He could learn anything he put his mind to, and I spent a chunk of my life feeling inferior," John says.

Paul attributes the phase to "identity crisis—times two! But I think we patched things up after we came out to our parents. I came out first, when I was about 14. I was more willful about it—I didn't want the baggage, and I wanted them to know." Interestingly enough, they didn't talk about coming out together—but did so almost at the same time.

Confluence of events

There was the same confluence of events when both decided to leave their computer courses to follow their hearts. John entered the first fashion design classes he could find, including "a school in Makati that really sucked," and Paul got into theater arts at the University of the Philippines, getting into performance and dance, and cutting his teeth doing outrageous costumes and set designs for directors like Anton Juan. "You know all those wings and headdresses? I loved doing them," Paul says.



Double take: Patricia Morato wears John's swirl wool dress with no side seams and Paul's 'Vanessa' chandelier earrings of beads and Swarovski crystals

Then, they found their own mentors on their individual paths. Through some designer friends, John met Shanon Pamaong, who used to teach at the La Salle College International and eventually opened the Fashion Institute of the Philippines some five years ago.

"His goal was to tap the local design market, because designers are often at the mercy of their pattern cutters and sewers," John explains. "When they say, that can't be done, there's nothing a designer can do. Sir Shanon would talk about construction—not the glamorous part, but the hard part of fashion. I wanted to be part of a school that got into the details that you can't see on the catwalk, down to the last button." John became part of the institute's pioneering batch of students, and considers Pamaong his "ultimate" mentor. "Everything I know about clothes, I learned from him."

Construct, then deconstruct

It came as no surprise then that less than a year after joining the Young Designers Guild (YDG), John was invited to join the Philippine Fashion Design Competition in 1994, and was also asked by Pamaong to teach in the Institute. He now teaches fashion illustration and haute couture techniques.

Yet, although he was "classically" trained by Pamaong, who preaches that "you have to know how to construct before you can deconstruct," John himself sees his work heading down the road less predictable. "My clients are mainly young girls who are sick of the usual cuts and are not afraid to experiment."

Case in point: an ingenious gray-green chiffon dress with holes burned along the edges to create an interesting effect, like the texture of coral, or a black number with caviar beading on the bodice. Or how about a swirling dress made of gray wool and cut without any seams? "This is a lab where we experiment, and come up with hypotheses and see if they work," John says.

Clients have been seeking out the young designer; writer and fashion plate Celine Lopez even called him "trend-free." "I like to make people think, what if? But it would also be a shame if you have such a great design but you can't wear it over and over. Wearability is a main concern for a client. But hey, I can make a beautiful suit. Rei Kawakubo said that fashion is not just about beauty, but if beauty pays the rent, you can find happiness in it!"

Comic relief

Paul, meanwhile, left theater after earning his Certificate in Theater Arts. It was John who introduced him to celebrated bag designer Bea Valdes, and he worked with her design team for a year and a half before striking out on his own. He even studied at the Fashion Institute, and actually had John as a teacher. "We were the comic relief of the class!" Paul recalls.

While his brother prefers the muted and the subdued, Paul's theater background made him go for visual impact, especially in accessories studded with sequins, chandelier and waterfall earrings dripping with Swarovski crystals, and pieces studded with colorful acrylic beads. "I find my inspiration in nature, insects, raindrops. I like to imitate skin textures," he says, pulling out a large pendant with which he is trying to recreate the rough, cool sheen of lizard skin.

Strangely enough, the brothers are collaborators, and feed off each other's strengths. "Paul is into trends, colors," John says. "Sometimes I ask him, *o*, Paul, I need something pretty-pretty, *ha*. What should I do? I ask him to make something that's very me, and he gets it *na*."

Paul, meanwhile, admires John's "imagination. He can visualize something and execute it the way he saw it, which I sometimes don't understand. I'm more realistic, I have to see things before me. But he'll tell me, embellish this, but John Herrera style, so I know he wants it with less glitter. It's not always easy working together, but we've learned to compromise."

The work is bound to get even more interesting now that the two have moved in together. John originally got his own place in January, but Paul says the two eventually began hanging out more "because we missed each other. We even have the same friends. I tried to think of friends that only one of us knew, and couldn't think of any."

Creation and management

The atelier will be John's base, with Paul helping both in management and on the creative side, even as he takes care of his own projects, like styling the cast of the ABS-CBN sitcom "John en Shirley" and working on shoots. When they're both not working, there are DVDs to watch and singalongs to frequent. "He works too much," Paul says of his older brother. "He doesn't unwind enough."

Watching the Herrera brothers fix up the model for this shoot, a friend they practically tore from her coursework, is a study in communication. It seems like they do share a language, beyond the joking and cajoling. Fortunately, they're no longer bothered by their novelty value. "I used to think, wow, they're just interested in us because we're twins," John says. "I think we've both done different work, and we've gotten some respect for that."

"Oh, but it helps us get recognized," adds Paul, ever the *chika* one. "Especially since we're both so small and cute." "The problem is, people think I'm too young to be doing this!" John laments good-naturedly. "A client will ask me, '*Hijo*, how many dresses have you made already?' And I have to say, 'Quite a lot *na po*.' But after talking to me, I think they see my work ethic. That's something Paul and I share. We're both disciplined." Which makes their fashion future twice as exciting. Q

Contact John Herrera at 0917-8337625 or at the Fashion Institute of the Philippines, tel. no. 635-5838. Contact Paul Herrera at 0921-7813655.

text and photographs by Nini Valera

'We looked like fools': Facelo and Ignacio at home in Malabon and missing 'Your Love'; below, at the Kalipay Bar at the Baywalk

After hitting it big with a power ballad a decade ago, the members of Alamid are now in limbo, after belatedly finding out that the song is no longer theirs. Now they're fighting to get it back

This '90s band is struggling to regain control of their precious property

"OUR LOVE" defined the sound of the 1990s and shoved the underground band Alamid into the mainstream.

Written by Dexter Facelo and Gary Ignacio, frontmen for Alamid, the song has recently been redone by Erik Santos, renewing interest from other record labels to reissue the song in other forms—a videoke track from Vicor and an acoustic version from Alpha. Santos' version has also been used as a music bed for the ABS-CBN *fantaserye* "Super Inggo."

A few years back, Jeremiah also released a version of the song, which many consider to be the next "*Ngayon at Kailanman*."

Meanwhile, the band Alamid, with only Ignacio and Facelo remaining among the original members, is languishing in limbo, playing for peanuts in seedy places like a beerhouse in Quezon City and a pub in Batangas, where they try to recapture their glory days.

"We were told that we don't own the song," Ignacio said. "Our manager, Dodong Viray, who has since passed away, supposedly signed a contract with Warner, giving the label perpetual rights over the song."

Non-existent contract?

Warner Music's general manager Jim Baluyot confirmed this.

"That's what I know," he told INQUIRER. "The band assigned the song to Warner in perpetuity."

Unfortunately, Baluyot has just assumed his post at Warner's and has still to see the contract, which Facelo and Ignacio claim does not exist.

"If there was a contract, then how come it's taking them a long time to give us a copy of it?" asked Facelo. "Gary has been calling them for several months now because we also want to reissue the song under our own independent label. But he has been given the runaround."

Warner's Flerry De Leon said she is digging into the company's data base of contracts to prove the deal, according to Ignacio.

"How much time do they need to look for a contract? It's not as if they had hundreds of artists in Warner's during our time," Facelo said. "As far as we can remember, there were only about 20 of us local artists with the label."

These artists included Lea Salonga and ZsaZsa Padilla, Ignacio recalled.

"Like us, they also left the label," he added.

It's a discordant note in the music industry, a sad refrain echoed by older, even if not wiser bands, like the iconic Juan dela Cruz, who has fought its own battle against perpetual publishing rights, as well as royalty payments. Like, who knows who owns "*Himig Natin*"? And how much has it earned Pepe Smith, who is still far from being a millionaire more than three decades after he wrote the song in a bar in Tokyo, Japan?

But Ignacio and Facelo are fighting it out.

"Only because it's our song," Facelo said.

As owners of the song, the duo feels they ought to have a say on who could record it. They admit that they were not too happy about Erik Santos' version.

Precious memories

Warner executives claimed that like Madonna, who has also assigned the publishing right of some of her songs to the label, no songwriter or performer could question the label's decision on the fate of a song, according to Ignacio. The label was also not obligated to inform the songwriters or original artist that a song would be reissued by another singer, according to Ignacio.

But is that fair? Ignacio and Facelo do not think so.

Memories of the song remain precious to both.

"There was a time," Facelo recalled, "when a British national looked for us so that he could propose to his girlfriend while we sang 'Your Love.'"

The Brit, a regular customer in a club in Bahrain where Alamid had a stint in 2000, was a fan of the band. They know him only as James.

"James found us performing in a concert in Pampanga," said Ignacio. "He was there, and he had a girl with him. When we sang 'Your Love,' James asked the girl to dance. It was a concert, but James didn't care. In the middle of our song, he went down on one knee and took out a ring and offered it to the girl."

Alamid has also sung the song in weddings and even in funerals. They are still singing the song—in their dreams, in their minds, and in their misery.

Too ominous

Formed in 1993, Alamid entered the music scene via the underground route, tracing their roots in places like Club Dredd and Mayrick's. Remnants of other bands, Alamid was first known as Athena's Curse, a name that record executives thought too ominous to be successful that no one picked up the demo the band had recorded and tried to peddle to record companies.

"Only after we became Alamid did the labels pay attention to us," said Ignacio.

Their first album, released by Warner Music Philippines, called Alamid, included "Your Love" as its carrier single. Ironically, the song, a sentimental, romantic ballad, alienated the band from their peers of underground rockers. But there was no way for Alamid to turn their backs on mainstream success—and the establishment.

With a professional manager, Dodong Viray, backing them up, there was no stopping Alamid from conquering the music scene, which was then ruled by rock bands like Color it Red, Side A, Eraserheads, The Youth, Put3ska, among others.

"Your Love" hit gold in 1994 (20,000 copies sold), and was named song of the year by the NU 107 Rock Awards.

But the greatest tribute to the band's musicality was paid by another rock star—Jon Bon Jovi—who had cancelled an engagement when he was in Manila for a show in 1993 to watch Alamid perform in Mayrick's.

"That was the biggest moment in our career," said Ignacio of Bon Jovi's visit.

Upheaval

A second album, "*Panaginip*," soon followed. Then a third, "Radio Friendly," and finally, "A Best Of" album that was anything but the best after an upheaval at Warner's.

"We were then performing abroad when the label called and asked us to return so we could promote the album," Ignacio said. "When we returned, the executives that we dealt with in Warner, Maan Hontiveros and Eugene Villaluz, were no longer there. The people who were then running Warner didn't know what to do with us."

Schedules for radio promo activities were so messed up that Alamid once found themselves in a radio station that did not welcome them.

"The station told us we were not included in their guest list that day," Facelo recalled. "*Ayun, mukha kaming tanga* (We looked like fools). There was nobody from the label that accompanied us. We were at a loss, and we had terminated a contract abroad so we could promote our album here."

By year 2000, the landscape of the local music industry was beginning to change. The acoustic genre was becoming a louder sound in the music industry, and the bands, with their rough edges and gritty music, gave way to the mellow and the bland.

On tour

Alamid, however, was still in demand, thanks to a beer brand that believed in music marketing and carved its niche on rock.

"Our San Miguel Beer tours kept us busy on tours around the Philippines," Ignacio said. "Until now, they call on us to perform whenever they have activities out of town."

After Viray died in 2002, the band went from one manager to another. One manager, clueless about how to handle a rock band, had wanted to transform Alamid from a rock group to a show band, and to provide accompaniment to female singers.

"The manager was OK *naman*," said Facelo. "But he did not know what do with us."

They soon parted ways, and another manager took over. Again, the partnership with the new manager did not work out. By then, R'n'B was already making the loudest noise in the music industry, and a true-blue rock group like Alamid had to wait its turn again in the wings.

Now in their late thirties and family men, Facelo and Ignacio have remained young boys and die-hard rockers. Still sporting long hair and wearing black T-shirts and pants, once the national costume of the music underground culture, the childhood friends from Malabon are determined to make a comeback.

No stable future

They also want to make money from "Your Love," which they both claimed had not given them enough revenue to even buy cars or a stable future.

"We made most of our money on gigs," said Facelo. "But even then, we were still shortchanged by some producers."

Ignacio related that during a show in Boracay, the producer had failed to pay them the balance on their talent fee, and the band was stranded in the resort island.

"We were able to buy our plane tickets only after we played in another bar," Ignacio said.

A series of misfortunes and dwindling fortunes from lack of bookings had also caused the other band members to break away from Alamid.

"They went into business or to the US," Facelo said. "One is a rich kid. They felt it was the end for Alamid."

But it is not the end for Facelo and Ignacio. The duo has not stopped writing songs. They write perhaps out of despair, but they still write from the heart. And it was from the heart that "Your Love" had come.

Nina ...from page 1

Anyway, in the song, Mary (actually a *two*-hit wonder: she also did the equally saccharine "Torn Between Two Lovers") is gushingly grateful to the lover who has just popped her cherry, and as she sings the final line "and I thank you, for your tenderness last night..." an image of Nina with her current beau Nyoy Volante pops into my head...

Argh. Erase, erase.

Non-stop validation

Actually, Nina agrees, this girl has turned into a woman. And not in the way you think.

"*Pwede*," she says.

When I first interviewed her in early 2003, she was a shy 22-year-old who looked all of 14, still giddy with the success of her first album "Heaven." Today, the shyness has been replaced with the kind of confidence that only comes with experience, maturity, non-stop validation from an adoring fan base and multi-platinum album sales that her rivals in the pop/R 'n' B sweepstakes can only envy.

We are in Nina's tastefully-furnished bedsit condominium, perfectly scaled to its owner's diminutive proportions and at the moment bursting at the seams with the equipment and entourage that come with a magazine photo shoot: lights, camera, two photographers, one writer, one makeup artist, Nina's mother, sister, manager and four other people. Meanwhile, the FEU-San Beda game is blasting from the big-screen TV and three of Nina's four cats are scampering under or climbing over the furniture. At the center of all this chaotic activity, Nina remains perfectly calm and composed, perhaps a little zonked from the cold medicine.

"*Yung* first album *ko, madami pa ang nakataas ang kilay, parang hindi ko pa na*-prove *sa kanila na marunong akong kumanta*," she explains. "*Pero ngayon, lalo na* with the 'Nina Live' album, *na*-showcase *ko na ang* talent *ko*. (After the first album, people were still skeptical. I hadn't proven to them that I could really sing. But now, specially after the 'Nina Live' album, I've showcased my talent)."

One wall of Nina's condo is, in fact, a shrine of sorts to the phenomenal chart success of "Nina Live," with framed plaques from PARI tracking its progress from gold, to platinum, to double, triple, quadruple, quintuple and sextuple platinum, with a space reserved for its current septuple platinum status. This doesn't include the parallel success of the "Nina Live" DVD, not to mention the uncharted but likewise brisk sales of pirate CDs and DVDs.

Booty-shaking

Released by popular demand, "Nina Live" attests to Nina's hardcore live following, which seems to grow exponentially with each release. These days she performs an average of four times a week, five if you count her appearance on the Sunday noontime show "ASAP" where she is frequently paired with boyfriend Nyoy Volante. This is a physically demanding regimen, more so now that her current repertoire calls for the occasional booty-shaking dance number, where before she used to sing entire sets sitting down, and Nina admits that the commodity she is most in want of is sleep.

Of course, none of this current success is a fluke. Nina was only 17 when she decided to take the plunge as a full-time singer. She had been weaned on Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Anita Baker and other FM divas. She honed her chops fronting a succession of showbands performing in clubs such as Strumm's, Ratsky, Limits and the Fashion Café by night, while she struggled to complete her accounting course at Miriam College by day. Her parents had allowed her to sing professionally on the condition that her grades didn't suffer, and Nina often brought her books to the gig with her, so she could study during the intermission. By the time she graduated, Nina had also paid her dues on the club circuit and was ready to take the next step. She recorded a three-song demo, including an unlikely cover of Steve Perry's MOR radio staple "Foolish Heart," sent it to Warner Music Philippines, and next thing she knew, she was a recording artist, with all of the gloss that a major label contract provides.

Grist for the rumor mill

When I first interviewed her, Nina confessed that she still got a thrill when a fruit vendor told her that she "looked like that singer, Nina." Now being recognized on the street has become routine, even when she puts her hair up or wears glasses.

On the down side, being a celebrity also means that her love life is grist for the showbiz rumor mill, although so far, scandalmongers haven't been able to put much of a spin on her relationship with Nyoy, other than the fact that her ex was also a singer.

Blessed and fulfilled: Next, Nina has her eye on the international market

"We've known each other for a long time, but we've only been together for less than a year," she says, adding that her relationship is "fulfilled."

She adds that the men in her life tend to be musicians because although she meets "normal people," it is easier to get close to people in the music scene because they keep the same hours, hang out in the same places, and share similar lifestyles.

Being in the same racket has its pros and cons, she admits.

"The pro is, you're always together since your fans want to see you together and producers tend to book you in the same shows. The con, there are a lot of fans, male and female, who go after you, but that's really up to us. We try to remain friendly with them, but when we see that their attention starts to become 'OA' (overacting, i.e., inappropriate), then that's it."

Pampered felines

Anyway, given her performing schedule, she doesn't really have a lot of free time on her hands, and next to her family and Nyoy, her closest relationships these days are with her cats, who have the run of the place whether or not the master is home. Nina has four, a cranky old Siamese tom misnamed Patience, an orange Persian named Rusty who also answers to "Garfield," mother-cat Mariah and juvenile Cotton. Numerous scratching posts, a self-cleaning litter box and plenty of cat toys keep her felines pampered.

Last month, Nina released a new, eponymous album, which she says encapsulates where her music is at these days.

"Actually, it's a mixture of all the musical genres—jazz, dance, R 'n' B, acoustic, ballads—the kind of music that I sing," she says.

The all-singing, all-dancing music video for the lead single "I Do" is Nina's gauntlet flung into the already crowded pop R 'n' B arena. But it has nothing to do with trends or other artists, she hastens to add, just the natural evolution of her musical tastes.

"When I was starting out, I didn't have too many expectations," she says. "I only wanted to be able to record an album. But the blessings have been coming since then, and I'm thankful."

Having just returned from a successful concert in Sydney, Australia with South Border, Nina is now ready to set the bar a little higher.

"I want to penetrate the international market, maybe starting with the Asian market," she says.

How's that for confident? Q

A 'racist' ...from page 3

even have a police record! How can the police spend hours negotiating with an armed hostage taker and yet shoot an unarmed boy just like that?"

Six feet, 265 pounds

The older Reodica also scoffs at police claims that his son presented a threat to the officers: "Belanger was at least six feet tall, weighed 265 pounds, and was kneeling on my son, who was lying face down on the ground. How could Jeffrey, at 5'3" and 160 pounds, be a threat to him and the other police officer?"

The public support generated by Jeffrey's killing has resulted in informal gatherings that, reveals Mila Garcia in her paper, helped the community realize the need to set up a broader coalition that would take up the causes of other Filipinos who are similarly aggrieved.

The coalition, the Community Alliance for Social Justice (CASJ), filled up the gap that the mostly cultural, religious, regional, social and civic Filipino associations seemed to have overlooked, says Garcia.

So far, CASJ has identified youth safety, the live-in caregiver program and access to trades and professions as the three priority issues they will take on. "In only a few months since it was informally created, CASJ has moved on to become a respected organization in the community for the work it has done," says Garcia.

She continues: "A year after the death of Jeffrey, one can see a Filipino community more determined to show its participation and involvement in social development and social justice affairs in the community... A Filipino CASJ member now sits in the City's advisory body on seniors affairs. Joel, Jeffrey's older brother, has accepted the invitation to be part of the Toronto Youth Cabinet, an advisory committee to the new police chief. Filipino community members now turn to CASJ for advice and support regarding various social justice issues. Some members of other ethnic communities have also approached both the Justice for Jeffrey and CASJ for advice and assistance on how they can create a social justice campaign for their own communities."

Dark cloud

Jeffrey's death may have united the Fil-Canadian community that has previously been divided by political loyalties back home, but it continues to cast a dark cloud over his family's life.

"It has turned our world upside down," says Willie. "It is hardest every time we go to the coroner's office to hear yet another witness describe how my son was beaten up and then shot. It's like being tortured again and again, and I can only cover my head and weep."

Says Flora: "This has completely changed my perception of Canada. What kind of crappy justice system do we have here?"

But Willie, who has already filed a $5.4 million civil suit against the state, isn't totally giving up hope. "I hope this case changes the way justice works in this country. I hope the SIU would be disbanded, or at least, that its members would be changed from retired ex-policemen who protect their own, to those more representative of community interests." Only then would his son's death be easier to bear, he adds. Q

(The inquest is ongoing, with the latest witness, Nora Angeles of the Counterpoint Men's Program, testifying on "Racism and How the Killing Impacted on the Filipino Community.")

This Week

Art

Tile Tales, tile paintings by Bart Aguas that show Filipino, Malay and Asian motifs, until Oct. 1 at the MuseumSpace, Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, Greenbelt Park, Makati City.

Kapitbahay features eight large-scale figurative canvases by Juanito Torres that tackle the issues of superstition, folly and faith of everyday people, until Oct. 3 at the Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St., Cubao, QC.

"Alphabet Soup 2" by Noell El Farol, on view at Galleria Duemila

Recent Work, a solo exhibit by Gerardo Tan at Mag:net Gallery Katipunan, Agcor Bldg., 335 Katipunan Ave, QC until Oct. 14.

Unwrapped, a solo exhibit by Marco Malto, until Oct. 15 at the Pasilyo Carlos V. Francisco, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Space Launch presents **works by Art Informal's founders and faculty** featuring a diverse range of artworks from paintings, drawings, sculptures to mixed media, pottery and print, until Oct. 29 at theSpaceatArtinformal, 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Evidence of Settlement, a glass art and objects exhibit by Noëll El Farol representing evidences of historical past, Oct. 7 to 30 at Galleria Duemila, 210 Loring St., Pasay City. For details, call 833-9815.

Eduardo Castrillo celebrates his **40th anniversary** as a pioneering artistic force with a series of four exhibitions highlighting various aspects of his art: "Castrillo at 40: Conceptualizing Symbols of Heritage" (until Oct. 30 at the University of Santo Tomas Museum; "From the Drawing Board" (Oct. 5-30, Cultural Center of the Philippines' 2nd and 3rd floor galleries); "Facets of Style, Medium and Form" (Oct. 17-Dec. 20 at the Yuchengco Museum at the RCBC Plaza), and "Castrillo at 40: New Works" (Dec. 1-30 at Choice Expression Gallery, 2nd Flr., 122 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City).

Cinema

The Japan Foundation, Manila, in cooperation with the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the UP Film Institute, presents slices of Japanese life as seen through the eyes of a new wave of Japanese directors in **Eiga Sai: Contemporary Films**. Featured films are: "Mark's Mountain" (Oct. 3, 7 p.m.- UP Film Institute); "All Under the Moon" (Oct. 3, 2 p.m.-UP Film Institute); "Kishiwada Bad Boys" (Oct. 3, 5 p.m.-UP Film Institute); "Dora-Heita" (Oct. 2, 5 p.m. - UP Film Institute); "Bright Future" (Oct. 2, 7 p.m.- UP Film Institute), and "Owl" (Oct. 2, 2 p.m. - UP Film Institute). All movies are subtitled in English. Admission is free. For detailed screening schedules and inquiries, please check the Japan Foundation, Manila website: www.jfmo.org.ph or call 811-6155 to 58.

Onstage

The Philippine Educational Theater Association presents **don_Q**, the story of Donatello, a 15-year-old, who fancies himself as a virtual knight out to change the world through a computer-based role-playing game. The play goes onstage at the Peta Theater Center, 5 Sunnyside Drive, Brgy. Kristong Hari, Quezon City on Oct. 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 with performances at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. For inquiries, call 725-6244 and 721-8604.

Experience comedy horror on stage in the latest theater sensation **Bakeretta—The Ghost in the Toilet**. The Japanese psychological thriller, directed by the playwright himself, Chong Wishing, brings you the likes of famous Japanese horror movies like the "The Ring" and "The Grudge" but with some quirky and musical twists. "Bakeretta" will be staged at the Sinag Arts Studio, 664 San Ignacio St., Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City on Oct. 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 21 and 22 at 3 p.m.; Tanghalang Huseng Batute (CCP Studio Theater) on Nov. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26. For ticket inquiries, call Tanghalang Pilipino at 832-3661; 832-1125 loc. 1620/1621; Sinag Arts Foundation at 531-3491; 531-9524 or call Ticketworld at 891-999.

Aladdin—the street-rat who falls in love with a princess; Jasmine who longs for freedom; the obliging fun-loving Genie of the magic lamp; the evil Jafar his side-kick parrot Iago, and his not-so-bright lieutenant Razoul"; and Jasmine's lovable father The Sultan are brought to life on stage by some of Repertory Children's Theater's favorite actors and talented new recruits. The music was written by famous Broadway composer Alan Menken with lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice and includes "A Whole New World", "Friend Like Me" and "One Jump". **Aladdin, Jr.** runs until December. Call the Rep office at 887-0710 or Ticketworld at 8919999 for tickets.

Music

Soul Ties 2 presents an all original Filipino R&B-hip hop-soul music on all Thursdays of October featuring singer-songwriters Lana J, Joaquin and Quest at Bagaberde in Pasig at 9 p.m. Guest artists Top Suzara, Michaelangelo, the Akafellas will grace the entire run of the show in keeping with the OPM spirit. For details, call Roca Cruz at 0917-5001351 or Darlyn Malimas at 0915-2937877.

The acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers is featured in a special concert dubbed **MADZitawanan** today at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. The Madz promises to deliver another uplifting and memorable performance with a repertoire of humor-filled numbers. Proceeds of the concert will go to the special ministries and projects of the Ellinwood-Malate Church in celebration of its 99th founding anniversary. Tickets are available at the CCP box office, the Ellinwood-Malate Church (523-2884, 523-6564 or 0918-9372055) and Ticket World outlets (891-9999).

Lea Salonga performs in her first concert after giving birth in **Tomorrow: A Concert for the Future** at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) on Oct. 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. Guests include the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Hail Mary the Queen Children's Choir, Kilyawan Boys' Choir, singer Calvin Millado, and child singer Julia Abueva. Lea teams up for the first time with the Philippine Madrigal singers in a concert celebrating a world. full of caring, love and joyousness for all kids of the world. Repertoire will have excerpts from the musicals "Anyone Can Wait," "Baby," "Man of La Mancha," "Lion King," "Gypsy," "Annie," songs from the films "True Colors" and "The Prince of Egypt," popular songs such as "You Raise Me Up," "Man in the Mirror," "Anak," "If I Could," "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," and "Chiquitita." For ticket inquiries, call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704 or at 832-1125 loc. 1405-1406.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Atbp

Tahanan Books for Young Readers launches two children's books penned by award-winning author Fran Ng—**500 Words & Pictures: A Bilingual English/Filipino Visual Dictionary** and 10 classic fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm, titled **Long Ago and Far Away**—on Oct. 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Adidas Sports Kamp in Fort Bonifacio. Distributed by Tahanan Books, all three titles are available at National Bookstore, Powerbooks, and Fully Booked outlets. For more information, please contact Frances Ong at 818-2482.

A Thai massage at Palm Garden Health Spa

The Bahay ng Diyos Foundation will hold a fundraising concert, **Voices**, slated at the Fiesta Pavilion Grand Ballroom of the Manila Hotel on Oct. 6 with Dulce, Isay Alvarez, Ivy Violan and Robert Seña. The Foundation aims to harness financial, material and human resources for the refurbishing of churches and their liturgical facilities all over the country. St. Bartholomew Church in San Manuel, Pangasinan was the latest beneficiary of the Foundation. For inquiries, call 531-4701 to 04 local 120 and 102 or 531-1182.

The **Palm Garden Health Spa** celebrates its anniversary by offering a 50 percent discount on massage services and a 20 percent discount on spa services until Oct. 20. Among the glamorous spa treatments for a luxurious facial and skin glow are the French Decleor Facial Treatment and the famous Dead Sea Mud Treatment. The spa also offers foot therapy, aromatherapy, and exotic skin and body treatments like the Indonesian lulur body scrub. Located at the 22nd floor of the Strata 100 building along F. Ortigas, Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Avenue), Ortigas Center. For inquiries, call 632-9279 or 632-9280.

The friends, classmates and students of Brother Rafael "Brafe" Donato FSC are staging the **Golden Years of Brafe** in celebration of his 50 years as a De La Salle Brother. A golf tournament and a testimonial dinner will be staged on Oct. 10 at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Joining fee for the golf tournament is P2,500 inclusive of green fee and dinner. For details, call Ting Yupangco at 0917-5365215 or email ting_yupangco@yahoo.com.

The **Christian Family Movement of the Philippines**, a lay religious movement and organization composed of Christian families, marks its **50th anniversary** with a two-day celebration at the GSIS Auditorium on Oct. 21 and 22 and at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on the evening of Oct. 21. The affair will showcase and highlight the outstanding achievements pulled together by dedicated and generous CFM officers and members. All members are enjoined to attend the jubilee celebration. Registration forms are available at the National Office, CFM Nazareth Homes, N. Domingo Street, corner Bgy. Horseshoe Drive, Horseshoe Village, QC. For inquiries, call 724-6747 or fax 412-2738.

The role of the **UP Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity** in nation building and government reforms will be one of the main agenda of the coming **national convention** on Oct. 20 to 22 at the Great Eastern Hotel, (Aberdeen Court) 1403 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. All Alphan brods are adviced to contact Vice Lord Chancellor Atty. Pastor "Mar" Reyes, Jr. at 892-4435, 813-1553, fax 812-6026 or the convention secretariat c/o Lady Chancellor Anna Czarina Peleo at 931-5001 local 7325, (direct line) 931-6442 for details.

X-manila

Mapping the Field, a solo exhibit by Virginia Dandan of 50 small to medium-scale works on canvas in acrylic and mixed media, at the Pinto Art Gallery, 1 Sierra Madre, Grand Heights, Antipolo City until Nov. 9.

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				8		6		
		3		4		7		
7		1		5				
1		2						
					8		5	
			2		9		3	
	7		6		4			
	8		1					

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/01

Answer to previous puzzle

3	4	1	7	6	5	2	8	9
6	7	2	4	8	9	5	3	1
8	5	9	1	2	3	4	6	7
2	6	4	5	7	1	3	9	8
7	1	3	9	4	8	6	5	2
9	8	5	6	3	2	7	1	4
5	3	8	2	1	4	9	7	6
1	2	7	3	9	6	8	4	5
4	9	6	8	5	7	1	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

2005 Agency Of the Year: Creativity reigns!

WINNING THE ALL-IMPORTANT BEST IN CREATIVE Category, TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno garnered the highest overall score to win the Agency of the Year (AOY) Awards. This win is TBWA's third in a row.

The other winners are:
Overall Media Excellence Award: Mind Share Phils
Best in Media Creativity: Mind Share Phils
Best in Media Business Performance: MindShare Phils
Best in Industry Leadership & Community Service: McCann Erickson
Best in Management of Business: McCann Erickson
Best in Market Performance: JimenezBasic
Best TV Production House: Filmex
Best Radio Production House: Sound Design
Best Print Production House: Chromagraph

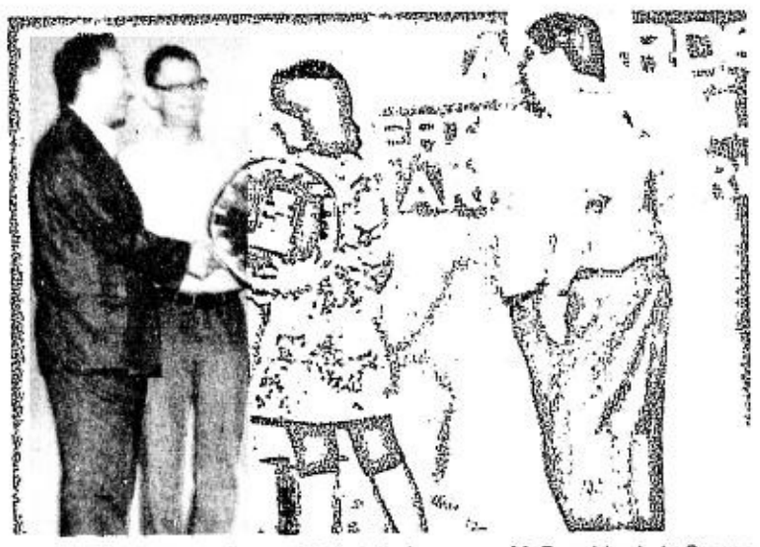
The 2005 AOY awards is sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer, ABS-CBN, MacGraphics Carranz, and Market! Market!

MARIKINA Mayor Marides Fernando and 4As chair Yoly Ong announcing the Agency of the Year winner. With them is Manolito Montes, senior partner at SGV & Co.

GLORIOUS night for TBWA. The team is headed by Tong Puno, Jimmy Santiago, and Melvin Mangada.

MINDSHARE dominates the Media Excellence Awards. Receiving the award are MindShare head, Mitos Borromeo and her team.

MCCANN Erickson is a consistent winner of Best in Industry Leadership and Community Service. Shown here are Venus Navalta and her team receiving the award.



JIMENEZBASIC wins Best in Market Performance. McDonalds chair, George Yang, and ABS-CBN SVP/ head of marketing, March Ventoza, congratulate JimenezBasic Joint CEO, Abby Jimenez, escorted by Paul Suarez.

Chinese Film Festival at the Mall of Asia

IN LINE WITH THE 15TH ANNIVERsary of the establishment of dialogue relations between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), a series of special screenings of critically acclaimed films from the People's Republic of China were recently shown at the SM Mall of Asia.

A joint project of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the National Commission of Culture and the Arts, and the Mall of Asia, the Chinese Film Festival's opening was graced by a delegation of some of China's top film officials, directors and actors.

The delegation, which was led by Tong Gang, director general of the Film Bureau SARFT, was welcomed by no less than SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr. Others in the group were La Peikang, president of the China Film Co-Production Corp; Luan Guozhi, director for International Cooperation of Film Bureau, SARFT; Mai Lisi, director of the film Taekwondo; Han Zhijun, director of the film "A Romantic Girl"; and Yi Chunde, actress of the film, A Time to Love.

The Chinese Embassy's Charge d Affaires, Deng Xiju; Cultural Attache Ralph Gao Jingui; and Cultural Counselor Dai Xigyuan were also present, as were NCCA chair Ambeth Ocampo, executive director Cecille Alvarez, deputy director Emily Tiongco, and film program consultant Elvert de la Cruz Banares. SM's vice president for leisure Ric Camaligan and the Mall of Asia's manager Steven Tan welcomed them.

Among members of the Chinese community present were officials of the Association of Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Firefighters of the Philippines: lifetime honorary president George Go, Antonio Kho, Robert Chua, Henry Ah, Pan Shing, Delfin Letran, and Armando Que.

Seen talking movies were National Artist Eddie Romero and wife Carol, Cine Manila Film Festival's Tikoy Aguiluz, the Film Academy's Manny Morfe and Josie Tagle, the Association for Philippine China Understanding Josie Joya Baldovino, and fashion designer Steve de Leon.

The films shown in the festival focused on the youth, revealing China's vibrant film industry. These included Taekwondo, Romantic Girl, A Time to Love, When Ruoma was 17, and The Marriage Certificate.

The Chinese Film Festival was a joint project of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the National Commission of Culture and the Arts, and the Mall of Asia.

SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr. with the members of the delegation Han Zhijun, Tong Gang, Yi Chunde, Berry Dionisio and Mai Lisi.

SUN CELLULAR, NOW WITH A BIGGER and better network, has partnered with Robinsons Savings Bank for the 24/7 Deposit Account and Sun subscription Program. Under this program, depositors of Robinsons Savings Bank are now entitled to apply for a Sun Cellular line with waived registration fees and document requirements. They simply have to put on hold the required amount of deposit corresponding to their desired Postpaid Plan. For Plan 350, depositors are required to keep a hold-out amount of P10, 500; P13, 500 for Plan 600; P19, 500 for Plan 1000; P30, 500 for Plan 2000; and P50, 500 for Plan 3500.

With this program, depositors of Robinsons Savings Bank can enjoy even greater savings with a Sun Postpaid Line. Sun's best value services like the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited, Sun Text Unlimited with free voice calls, Sun Sulit Calls, and Sun IDD Top 10 allows you more calls and texts to your friends and loved ones here or abroad at amazingly affordable rates. With these great deals from Sun, it's like earning double for your deposit!

Avail of the Robinsons Savings bank 24/7 Deposit Account and Sun Subscription Program and enjoy a best-value deal for your money. So hurry to any of the 17 Metro Manila and 15 provincial branches of Robinsons Savings bank and get your Sun Cellular line.

BPI accorded 'Best Local Cash Management Bank for 2006

"COMPETITION BETWEEN CASH MANAGEment providers has never been fiercer," read the caption under the image of tackling football players in Asiamoney's August 2006 issue, featuring the results of its annual Corporate Cash Management Poll. Amidst the tough battle, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has emerged as the "Best Local Cash Management Bank in the Philippines for 2006".

This award from Asiamoney further proves the mettle of BPI, who has withstood the country's various sufferings from problematic fiscal deficit, international credit downgrades, political uncertainties, and higher oil prices. BPI has been able to grapple with and hurdle the problems with prudent and conservative strategies in bank offerings, dealings, and in the management of financial assets.

Asiamoney is the leading monthly capital markets publication in the region, enjoying a global distribution and loyal readership among senior decision makers from the corporate, investor and banking communities with a remit to investigate and report on the key issues and stories affecting these communities across the Asia-Pacific.

For its 16th annual Corporate Cash Management Poll, Asiamoney sent the questionnaire to over 5,000 senior treasury and finance executives in listed companies, multinationals, SMEs and unlisted companies across Asia-Pacific. The questionnaire obtained qualitative information on the cash management industry from the respondents, who were also asked to nominate their preferred cash management providers according to the following categories: most innovative cash management solutions; best cash management solutions for liquidity management, receivables and payables; best at understanding business strategies, objectives and requirements before recommending cash management solutions; best at implementing cash management solutions; best electronic and online capabilities; best after-sales customer service; and best corporate cash management outsourcing capabilities. Respondents were also requested to nominate their top cash management providers for domestic and cross-border services, as well as their preferred local cash management banks.

Apart from the Asiamoney award, BPI has received many awards due to its many diverse financial offerings. This year, it was awarded the banking leader in remittance by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) because of its Expat Pinoy Program of Direct Savings Bank and BPInoy Remittance.

Other awards BPI has garnered include "Best Bank in the Philippines" by Euromoney; "Best Retail Bank in the Philippines" by the Asian Banker Excellence in Retail Financial Services Award; "Triple A Best Cash Management Bank for the Philippines" by The Asset; "the Most Trusted Brand in the Bank and Investment Fund Company" categories of the 8th Annual Reader's Digest Asia Trusted Brands Survey; and the five awards given by the Development Bank of the Philippines: "the Most Outstanding Participating Financial Institution" under three out of four priority areas/sectors for development: Infrastructure and Logistics Development Award, Social services Development Award, Environmental Development Award; and Hall of Famer for two categories: the Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund program and the other for All Around Performance for the bank's consistent outstanding performance under these categories in the last five years.

UNILAB'S TUSERAN HEALTH MISSION IN NAGA

Close to 3,000 patients, mostly women and children, received free medical assistance from the Tuseran Tigil Ubo Medical Mission of leading pharmaceutical company United Laboratories, Inc. (Unilab) held recently in Barangay Triangulo, Naga City, Bicol. Organized by Unilab consumer health group in partnership with Southstar Drugstore, the Tuseran Tigil Ubo Medical Mission is part of a series of Unilab medical missions held nationwide to provide Filipino patients with access to quality healthcare.

LIFESTYLE / D1

Tradition, technology unite in conservation of Pasig church

METRO / A23

Bodies of 6 massacre victims found in Caloocan

ACROSS / A20

Guimaras child evacuees bear heat, discomfort

NEWS / A22

Czech beauty wins Miss World tilt; texters fail RP bet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 2, 2006 ★ [illegible] section Vol. 21 / No. 296

website: www.inq7.net

ONLY the statue of national hero Jose Rizal and a few trees are left standing in front of the Capitol in Sorsogon City. Sorsogon province was among the hardest hit by Typhoon "Milenyo." LYN RILLON

Telcos say 90 percent of service restored

By Riza T. Olchondra

TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES YESTERday said about 90 percent of cell sites and fixed line facilities in the country were back to normal. However, many cell phone users could not enjoy the services because they were unable to charge their handsets after four days of power outages in the aftermath of Typhoon "Milenyo."

TELCOS SAY/ A8

Millions still have no power, water

Death toll rises to 103; damage now at ₱4B

By Inquirer Southern Luzon, Abigail L. Ho and Christine A. Gaylican *in Manila*

AMID WIDESPREAD PUBLIC GRUMBLING, MILLIONS OF Filipinos around Luzon reeled from the lack of electricity for the fourth straight day yesterday as the death toll from the onslaught of Typhoon "Milenyo" shot past the 100 mark.

Tens of thousands of others also struggled without water as utility companies tried to assure the public that they were doing their best to completely restore services.

Meralco failed to meet its earlier announced target of fully restoring electricity in Metro Manila by yesterday. Its officials said some areas may still be in the dark up to Tuesday.

One of the hardest hit regions was Bicol, where around 60 percent of the estimated regional population of 4.2 million were still without power, according to Arnel Capili, Office of Civil Defense regional director.

Among the areas in Bicol still in darkness were Sorsogon, Albay and parts of Camarines Sur, the OCD said.

The water situation remained grim in some areas.

Some 21,000 of 700,000 households in the west zone served by Maynilad Water Services Inc. still had low or no water supply as of yesterday, said Maynilad corporate affairs chief Jesus Matubis.

These were in upper Parañaque and Las Piñas cities.

Some schools in Metro still have no classes. See list on Page A8.

In the east zone, a total 14,454 of 803,000 households served by Manila Water Co. also still had no water or, if they did, the supply was low, said Manila Water media affairs manager Ranulfo Habaluyas.

These were in Taguig City (Signal Vil-

MILLIONS/ A8

MARIA Collantes searches for her belongings beneath the debris left by Typhoon "Milenyo" in Barangay Talisay in Sorsogon City. *(Story on Page A12.)* LYN RILLON

Dream city jolted by nightmare

By Bobby Q. Labalan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—MAYOR SALLY LEE cried unabashedly before President Macapagal-Arroyo during the latter's visit here on Saturday after Typhoon "Milenyo" battered this city, which is aspiring to be one of the dream cities in the country.

Lee, the wife of Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee, broke down as she appealed for help at the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) meeting presided over by the President.

She recalled the destruction wrought by the typhoon, touted as the strongest to hit the province in the last 30 years.

DREAM CITY/ A6

Makiling swallowed his family

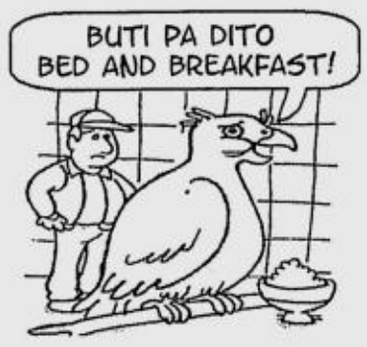
By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BAY, LAGUNA—FOR THREE MONTHS, Gerardo Laganzon painstakingly set aside part of his meager earnings as a farmer so he could have some money for his 33rd birthday.

His daughter, Camille, 7, had fervently wished they could celebrate his birthday on Oct. 3 by eating out at Jollibee together with his 2-year-old son, John Lloyd, and wife Marcelina.

"My kids really liked Jollibee. But be-

MAKILING/ A12



Rich troop to hotels but poor have nowhere to go

By Christian V. Esguerra

A BEJEWELED COUPLE, WITH TWO young daughters in tow, stepped out of a brand new, Korean-made van in front of a swanky hotel along Roxas Boulevard on Saturday night.

Trailing them were a middle-aged driver and a uniformed maid carrying bags of clothes and groceries to last them probably two nights at the five-star hotel.

Like many other wealthy families billeted there, they spent the night away from home while they waited for Meralco to restore the power unceremoniously knocked out by Typhoon "Milenyo."

What's a P5,000 overnight stay at a classy hotel if a family can afford it?

Elsewhere, in an obscure neighborhood in Valenzuela City, the Trinidad couple and their young children endured the usual sweltering heat, not to mention the mosquito bites in the area recently declared by the government a dengue "hot spot."

For them, passing a night even in a cheap hotel was an impossibility. The family's sole breadwinner is a tricycle driver.

Not only did Milenyo uproot trees and topple billboards and power poles, its brief onslaught on Thursday also emphasized the growing social divide in the country.

"That's the way it is," said Lino de los Santos, 45.

The Trinidad family is no stranger to long blackouts triggered not by natural calamities, but by poverty. In August, they spent about two weeks without electricity for failing to pay their bills. They're expecting another disconnection order soon.

It's one problem that's seemingly

RICH/ A12

Rare eagle back home at feeding time

By Blanche S. Rivera

A FREE-SPIRITED EAGLE ESCAPED from its cage at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo" but returned two days later, apparently unable to cope in the wild, wild world of a devastated Metro Manila.

The serpent eagle, a threatened species whose population is being

RARE EAGLE/ A6

Ex-general sworn in as Thai PM

BANGKOK—RETIRED ARMY COMMANder Gen. Surayud Chulanont was sworn in Sunday as Thailand's interim prime minister, after the military announced a new temporary constitution that would give them considerable power.

The newly appointed prime minister told reporters that his priorities would be tackling the ongoing Muslim insurgency and bringing unity to a country divided by the policies of his ousted predecessor, Thaksin Shinawatra.

"It was injustice that caused problems in politics and the south," Surayud said referring to divisions over Thaksin's rule and a Muslim insurgency in the south. "I urge everybody to help solve the two problems and unity is needed to deal with them."

Surayud also quickly set himself apart from the brash, probusiness Thaksin by saying he would strive to balance the need for a growing economy with the happiness of the people.

"I will focus on self-sufficiency, more than focusing on the GDP numbers," Surayud said. "I will focus on the happiness of the people, more than the GDP," he said.

Surayud's swearing in as the country's 24th prime minister followed his endorsement by King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The Cabinet is expected to be announced later this week.

The 63-year-old Surayud, who spent

EX-GENERAL/ A5

SURAYUD: Thaksin's replacement AFP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Bicol region and the western sections of Visayas and Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/10/01/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

FVR upbeat on SC Cha-cha ruling

By Nikko Dizon

THE MAN WHO COULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM a people's initiative to amend the Constitution nearly a decade ago is hopeful the Supreme Court would make the "correct ruling" that would pave the way for Charter change.

"I'm optimistic that the Supreme Court will make the correct ruling," former President Fidel Ramos said yesterday at a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) shortly upon his arrival from Hawaii.

Ramos said the barrage of questions from the SC justices at last week's oral arguments were "expected" and should not be seen as a setback for the supporters of Charter change.

"What the pro-people's initiative side is saying is that the original decision made in 1997 must be seen in a more liberal light," Ramos said. "And this was precisely the position of the three dissenting justices at that time who are now the three highest ranking justices in the Supreme Court of 2006."

The former President was referring to Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Senior Associate Justices Reynato Puno and Leonardo Quisumbing.

Shortly before Ramos was to end his six-year term as president in 1998, a people's initiative campaign was launched by Pirma to lift the constitutional ban on incumbent Presidents running for a second term.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, whom Ramos defeated by a narrow margin in the 1992 elections, questioned the Pirma initiative before the Supreme Court.

In 1997, the high court ruled that Republic Act No. 6735, or the Initiative and Referendum Act, was insufficient to make amendments to the Constitution and needed an enabling law.

At that time, both Panganiban and Puno voted to uphold the sufficiency of RA 6735.

Last Tuesday, the SC held a marathon hearing on the oral arguments on the new initiative petition brought before the high court by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) and Sigaw ng Bayan.

Both Ulap and Sigaw claimed to have gathered the required signatures needed for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

But the Senate and several groups have strongly opposed the people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

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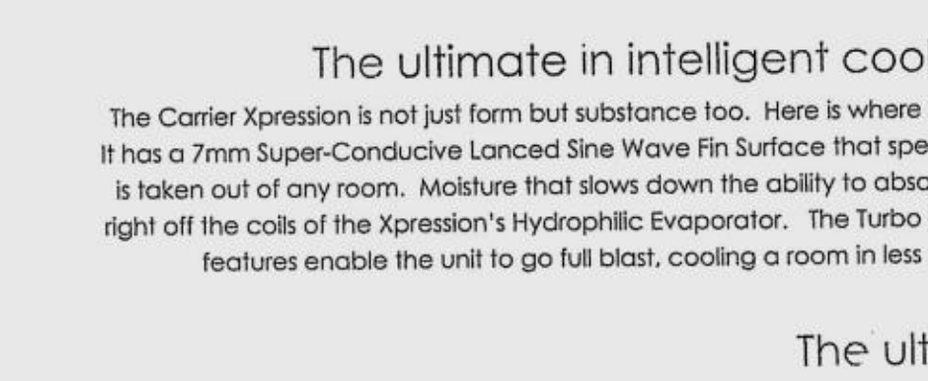

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Melo panel probe got off on wrong foot, says Pimentel

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO Pimentel Jr. yesterday accused the Melo Commission of conducting its inquiry into the rash of killings of activists and journalists in a "haphazard manner."

"It's getting nowhere," Pimentel said in a statement.

Pimentel said the panel, headed by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose A.R. Melo, started on the wrong foot by calling military and police officials to testify on the killings before getting the testimonies of witnesses and relatives of the slain activists and mediamen.

By summoning the officials first, the commission might have given the "disturbing impression" that it was giving more importance to their claims that other armed groups, not the military, had carried out the killings of leftist activists, he said.

Testifying before the commission on Sept. 18, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon denied the military played a role in the killings. He tagged communist guerrillas in the assassination of about 1,200 civilians and military men over the past five years.

Leftist groups had blamed the military and police, and the Arroyo administration, in general, for the murders.

Recently retired Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who had been accused of masterminding the killings, and police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, head of Task Force Usig charged with inquiring into the killings, also testified before the body.

Pimentel said he was dismayed that more than five weeks after it was created on Aug. 21 the six-man commission had not called the witnesses to the killings and the relatives of the victims.

"The lack of progress in the investigation of the extrajudicial killings only bolsters the criticism that the Arroyo government lacks the political will and sincerity to solve them. Worse, it also gives rise to suspicion that the Melo Commission is programmed to fail," he said.

He said he would not be surprised if the commission eventually failed to do its job in view of its "inherent limitations."

For instance, he pointed out, the commission did not have a "specific budget," lacked the power to cite in contempt witnesses who ignored summonses or refused to answer questions, and carried no authority or means to ensure the protection of witnesses.

Its composition, he added, was flawed because Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring had been named to the panel despite their affiliation with the Department of Justice, which was under the Office of the President.

He said the Commission on Human Rights, an independent body created by the Constitution, was more capable of carrying out an impartial, objective and credible probe.

Pimentel said President Macapagal-Arroyo could help overcome the panel's limitations by heeding the proposal of Amnesty International to expand its membership to include representatives of nongovernment organizations with a track record in investigating human rights violations.

CCP shows reset

TCHAIKOVSKY'S OPERA, EUGENE ONEGIN, originally scheduled for Sept. 28, 29 and 30 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, has been moved to Oct. 5, 6 and 7 at the same venue. All tickets will be honored on the same days and time, according to Dean Raul Sunico of the UST Conservatory of Music and CCP president Nestor Jardin.

Eugene Onegin is directed by Floy Quintos, with Prof. Hermie Ranera as musical director. Evening performances on Oct. 5 and Oct. 7 feature soprano Rachelle Gerodias as Tatyana and baritone Andrew Fernando in the title role. The matinee show on Oct. 7 will have baritone Noel Azcona in the title role.

The recital of pianist Cristine Coyiuto was also moved from Oct. 1 to Oct. 8. For ticket inquiries, please call tel. 900-7023 or 0906-5104270.

Newsmen hit 'harassment by libel suit'

AT LEAST 369 FILIPINO JOURNALISTS and 44 of their foreign colleagues, along with 21 local and international media organizations, have signed a petition condemning the growing problem of harassment by libel suit against journalists, demanding that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo desist from using libel cases to cow the media.

Local signatories included media stalwarts Jose Lacaba, Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, Jose Pavia, Adrian Cristobal and Luis Teodoro, and other editors and columnists of the country's print and broadcast organizations. Tirol is the INQUIRER's Reader's Advocate.

Foreign newsmen who signed on included International Federation of Journalists chair Christopher Warren and secretary general Aidan White.

The petition was an offshoot of a roundtable discussion on libel organized by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, the national affiliate of the IFJ. It scored Arroyo for filing multiple libel cases against 43 reporters, columnists, editors, publishers and even a subscription manager of various publications, including the INQUIRER.

"We will not dispute the merits of the cases nor Mr. Arroyo's right to defend his honor and dignity," the statement said. "What we decry is his propensity to sue journalists so as to muzzle those he does not agree with and sending out a clear signal to others that they risk the same ordeal should they dare cross him."

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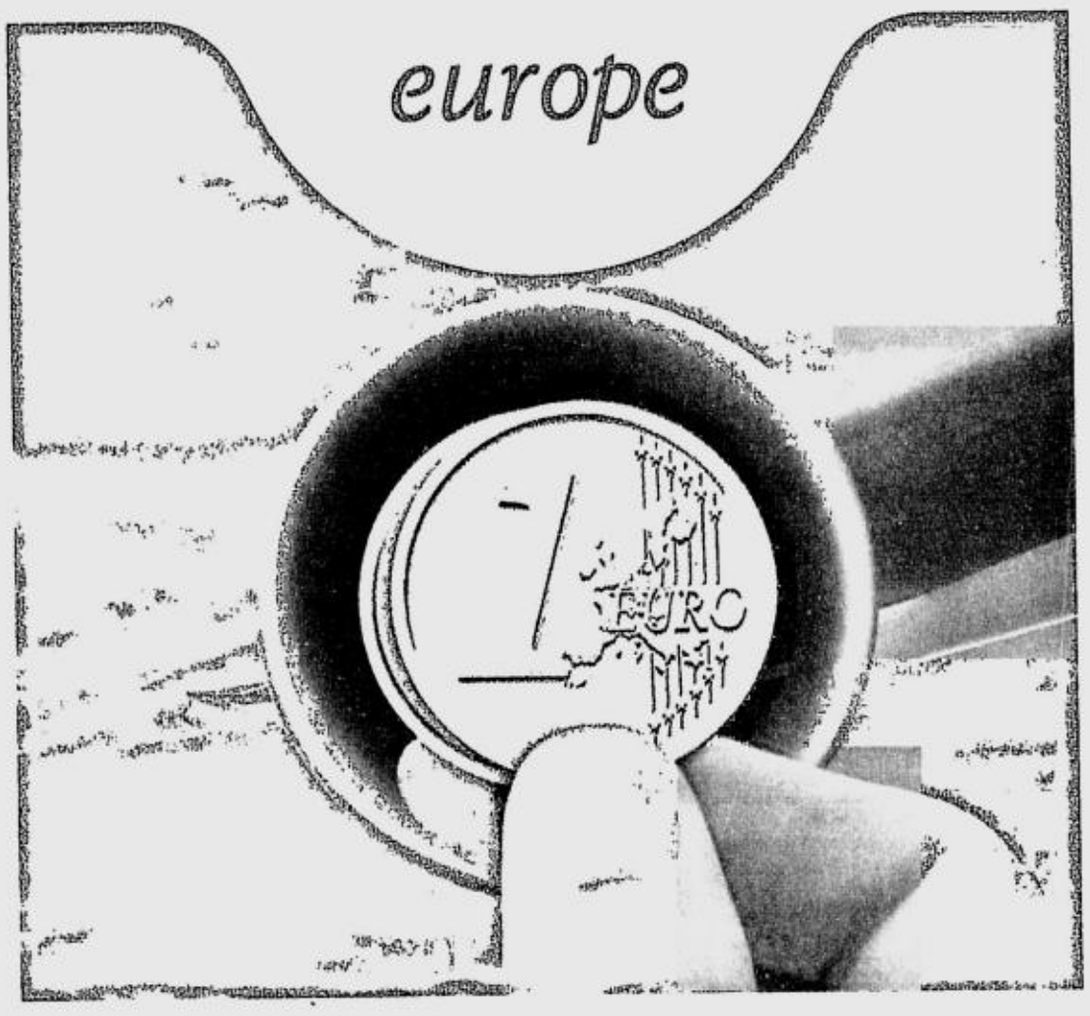

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Cherie Gil: Is Her Face "Retouched?"

With her face gracing countless magazines, billboards and posters, one may question if Cherie Gil's face has ever been "enhanced" by the magic of computer retouching. Yes, Cherie admits to having her face retouched! But not in the way you think. She recently tried Facial Care Centre's newest treatment, Fraxel, which is similar to computer-generated retouching.

"I was in New York last August when I found out about Fraxel, which was actually a big thing in the States," she recalls. "Especially for women who don't like surgery. I was really excited when I learned that it's already offered at Facial Care by the time I came back to Manila." Unlike surgical lasers that remove the top layer of skin, Fraxel is "fractional." It intensively treats a very small fraction of the skin without affecting any surrounding tissue. The treatment is well-tolerated and feels like slight pin-prick sensations. "The pain was insignificant because an anesthetic cream was applied on my skin prior to my treatment," Cherie imparts. "It wasn't uncomfortable at all. The procedure only took about 30 minutes."

Fraxel works by using a handpiece that is gently guided across the skin like an airbrush. This produces thousands of deep, tiny columns in your skin called "microthermal treatment zones." The process is similar to altering or retouching a photograph pixel by pixel, smoothing out irregularities and blemishes while restoring color and quality.

"I saw a remarkable effect after only the first treatment!" Cherie narrates. "And I'm not saying this just because I'm endorsing Facial Care. As soon as I stepped out of the room after the treatment, I felt my skin and said to myself, 'Boy, it's as smooth as a baby's butt!' And there really was a remarkable difference on my forehead. I used to have deeper lines in this area. In the neck area I felt a tightening also."

> "The 5th treatment I felt my skin and said to myself 'Boy, it's as smooth as a baby's butt!'"

Side effects are generally mild. Cherie describes: "An hour later, I felt this mild sunburn sensation and a certain tightness. My skin began to redden, but it just looked like a tan. The day after, the redness lessened. Plus there was a bit of flaking. In fact I had a pimple prior to that treatment and it just dried out like a scab. After about 4 days there wasn't so much redness anymore. The scaling also lessened." Any swelling after a treatment usually subsides after a day or two while the pinkish tone fades over several days. This is a normal sign that the skin is deeply healing, that there's new collagen growth and good blood circulation.

Cherie compares Fraxel to that of another procedure, Thermage: "I've tried Thermage, but I had to be sedated. Though it wasn't really invasive, it was a lot more aggressive than Fraxel. I didn't like being sedated. About 2 days after the treatment, I felt a 'bruised' sensation, as if my face was punched. My skin was swollen for about 2 weeks." She describes Fraxel as a treatment with the results of some effective invasive procedures, but without the need for a surgical process.

On average, an effective Fraxel treatment regimen is up to 5 sessions spaced about 3 to 4 weeks apart. "I know I need about 4 to 5 sessions for maximum results," Cherie says. "That's why I can't wait for the next session to see what will happen to my other lines! I definitely recommend Fraxel to women my age who have some fine lines and pigmentations. I also hear that Fraxel works well on deep scarring and severe acne and surgical scars. So it isn't only an aesthetic necessity but also a medical necessity."

Fraxel dramatically improves skin texture and pore size, erases brown spots, uneven pigmentation problems and smoothes away wrinkles around the eyes. It also rejuvenates the neck, chest and hands, delicate areas often ignored, yet are the most revealing tell-tale signs of aging. It also removes deep, severe scars that cannot be removed by other conventional peels and procedures.

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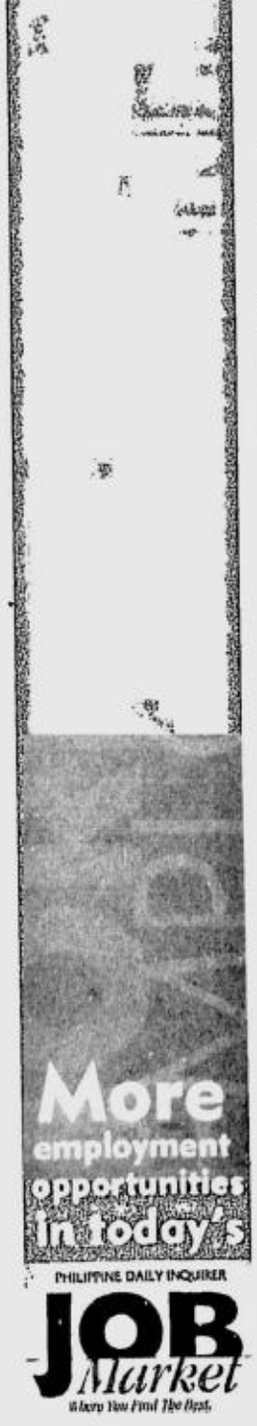

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Why school shouldn't open in Sept.

By Alcuin Papa

MILITANT STUDENTS SAID YESTERDAY THE damage and destruction wrought by Typhoon "Milenyo" was the best argument against the proposal to move the school opening from June to September.

Kabataan Party president Raymond Palatino said the damage brought about by the typhoon "should be enough reminder for our lawmakers and education officials to think twice before changing the school opening to September."

"What happened last Thursday only proves that floods and other natural catastrophes happen all year round and not just during the traditional rainy season from June to August. Clearly, schoolchildren cannot avert such incidents by changing the school term," Palatino said.

He said that "disaster preparedness" and not moving the school year was the best way to ensure the safety not only of schoolchildren but of the community in general.

"This should serve as a wake-up call for our government officials to regularly inspect facilities, especially power transmission utilities, and unclog waterways to avoid accidents and further loss of property and lives," he said.

Kabataan Party vice president Carl Marc Ramota expressed support for more stringent regulations on billboards.

Ramota said not only commercial billboards should be banned but "political" billboards as well, or billboards that advertise the public work projects of politicians.

"Not only are these eyesores, these also pose great danger to motorists and pedestrians," Ramota said.

"These tarpaulins are even more dangerous than giant billboards as most of them are placed on electric wires at the middle of busy roads," he said.

Ramota said lawmakers should also subject Metro Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Metro Gwapo project to another quality test, saying street signages, posts and pink fences might have been constructed using substandard materials that easily disintegrated in the face of Milenyo's strong winds.

"Our lawmakers should make sure that Filipinos are not only safe during calamities but also guarantee that their taxes are spent wisely on sturdy government projects," Ramota said.

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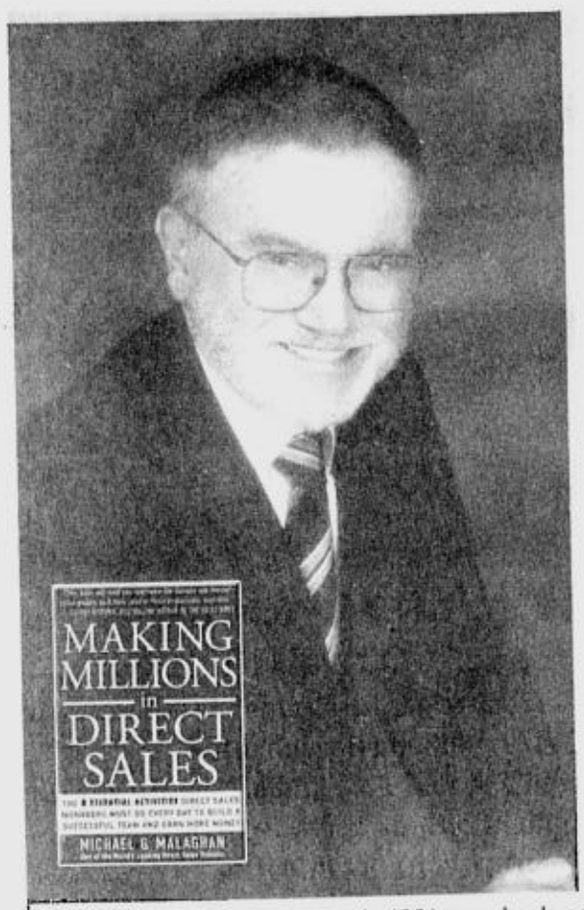

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Red Cross to seek help after studies

DESPITE THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT BY Typhoon "Milenyo" last week, the Philippine National Red Cross is not in a rush to appeal for international aid for the victims, Sen. Richard Gordon said last night.

Gordon, PNRC chair, said the agency would appeal for international aid once its teams deployed to the provinces hardest-hit by the typhoon had completed their assessments on the extent of damage to life and property.

"Once we can get the specific assessment, we will launch the international appeal by Wednesday or Thursday," Gordon said in an interview.

Four-man teams had been sent out to Bicol and southern and Central Luzon, the regions hardest hit by the typhoon, and Metro Manila to assess the damage as well as the needs of the victims, according to Gordon.

"There were many houses destroyed, many persons disjointed by this calamity, made more vulnerable economically, physically, psychologically," he said. "They would need food, medicine and implements to restore their livelihood."

But until the assessments come in, the PNRC has no basis to call for international aid, he said.

After sending out bulletins around the world, the PNRC chair said he was informed last Saturday by US Ambassador Kristie Kenney that the US government was donating $100,000 to the agency for relief operations. *TJ Burgonio*

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TROOPS withdraw from the Royal Plaza in Bangkok after guarding the area for almost two weeks. Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej endorsed a stop-gap constitution on Sunday which the Army says will be in place until a new long-term charter is drawn up in nine months after September's bloodless military coup. REUTERS

Ex-general sworn in as Thai prime minister

From page A1

40 years in the military, is seen as someone who could help stabilize the political situation following the Sept. 19 coup that ousted Thaksin.

"General Surayud has been trusted to become a new prime minister," Army commander in chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin said, reading from a royal command. "The king has appointed him to administer the country from now on."

Sondhi, the leader of the coup, has said the new prime minister and government will run the country until new elections in October next year.

Sign of respect

Surayud, dressed in a white military uniform, prostrated himself in front of a wall-sized portrait of the king as a sign of respect. He stood alongside the six coup leaders at Government House in the Thai capital during the swearing in ceremony.

During his military career, Surayud earned praise for his deft handling of Thailand's border dispute with Cambodia during the 1980s. Upon his appointment as Army commander, he engineered a major restructuring of the military, increasing professionalism and keeping officers out of politics.

"Surayud has many followers. People trust him and he is one of the very few army men who valued democratic principles," said Chulalongkorn University Professor Surat Horachaikul. "He was the best candidate for this job."

Earlier Sunday, television stations announced that the king had endorsed the new constitution, which will replace the 1997 charter that was abolished on Sept. 19 when military officers seized power from Thaksin.

Thaksin was attending the UN General Assembly in New York at the time of the coup and is now residing in London.

Too many loopholes

The new rulers say the previous constitution had too many "loopholes," which allowed Thaksin and his cronies to abuse power and engage in widespread corruption.

Under the new interim constitution, the junta gave itself the power to remove Surayud and his Cabinet, approve the selection of a National Assembly speaker, and have the final say on a 100-member committee that will write the next constitution.

The interim document also gives "complete immunity" to the coup leaders for overthrowing the government.

The military council "will not interfere in or influence the government since the prime minister is a capable and well-respected man," Sondhi said earlier. "We will give him a free hand to run the administration of the country. Only during the transitional period when the Cabinet is not yet formed will the (council) help him in some areas."

Sondhi earlier said he was confident the new prime minister would be capable of tackling key problems, including rampant corruption and lack of unity within Thai society.

Sondhi also announced that four top members of Thaksin's government had been released from detention. Held since shortly after the coup were Deputy Prime Minister Chitchai Wannasathit, Environment Minister Yongyut Tiyapairat, Prime Minister's Office Minister Newin Chidchob and Thaksin's top aide, Prommin Lertsuridej.

Corruption probe

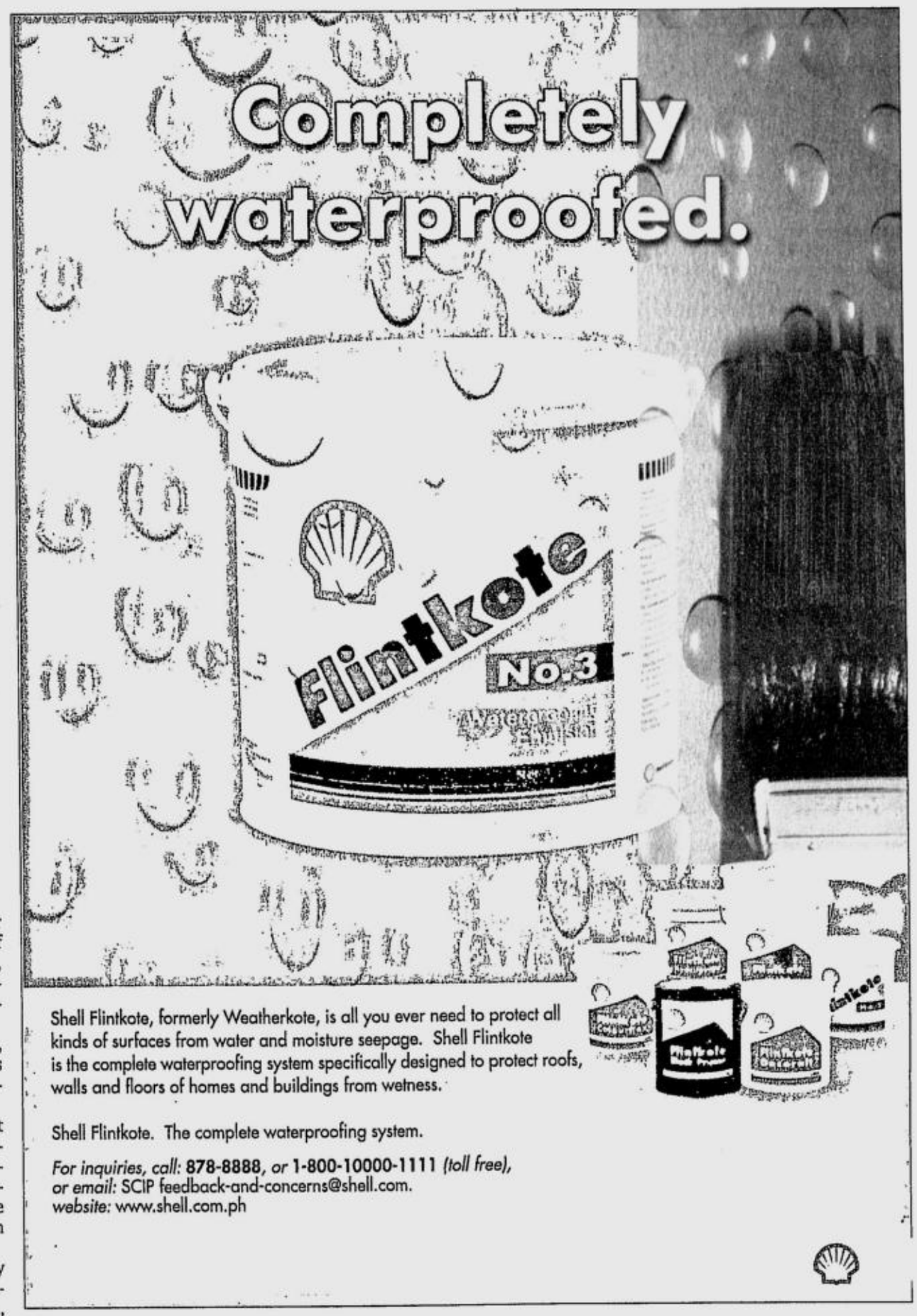
The new government is expected to press ahead with investigations of alleged corruption by Thaksin and his government.

On Saturday, the junta replaced an earlier committee to investigate and freeze assets of the former government with a high-powered, 12-member panel and also gave more authority to the National Counter Corruption Commission.

Thaksin has been accused of corruption, abuse of power, attempting to destroy press freedom and mishandling a Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand.

One recent study reportedly estimated that systematic corruption by Thaksin's government deprived state coffers of some 450 billion baht (US$11.9 billion), most of it siphoned off from 95 megaprojects during the nearly six years the prime minister was in power.

The estimate was contained in a study by faculty members of the well-regarded National Institute of Development Administration, The Nation newspaper said. AP



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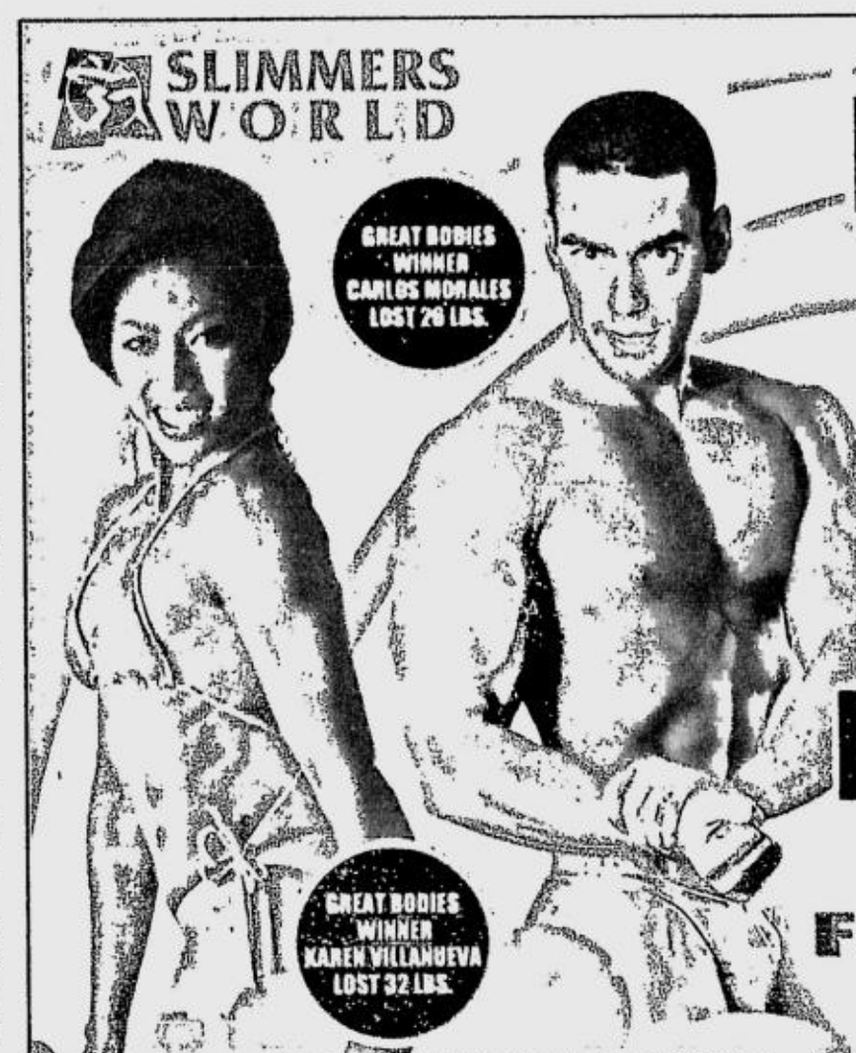

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Rare eagle back home …

From page A1

preserved by the government, flew back to the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife rescue center in Quezon City on Saturday morning, around the time of its scheduled feeding.

"It probably found it hard to catch a prey. Here, it does not have to work for food. Food is served," Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) chief Mundita Lim said in a phone interview yesterday.

An amused Lim said the eagle, which is used to eating carabeef, chicken or chicks every day, was found at the rescue center and easily lured back into its cage by park attendants.

The eagle escaped after strong winds brought by Milenyo felled 60 percent of the 3,000 trees at the park and blew off the roof of its cage late Thursday.

It was the only one among eight serpent eagles in the same cage that flew out for a taste of freedom.

Lim on Friday had expressed confidence the eagle would return because it would miss its regular meals and would most likely find it difficult to search for food in the metropolis.

She, however, appealed to the public to alert the PAWB, which manages the park, if it sighted the 1.5-foot white serpent eagle with brown spots on its chest.

"There's no cash reward, but we will issue a certificate of appreciation," she had said.

As it turned out, the carabeef and chicken were powerful enough attractions to bring back the adventurous bird.

'Neneng' moving toward north Luzon

By Blanche S. Rivera

HARDLY BACK ON TRACK FROM THE DEVASTATION wrought by Typhoon "Milenyo," the country was advised yesterday to brace yet again for another tropical cyclone that could develop into a typhoon within the week.

Tropical depression "Neneng" has entered the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), but it was still over the Pacific Ocean as of 4 p.m. yesterday.

Neneng's center was located 1,020 kilometers east of Bicol. It has maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour based on a satellite image from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

"This disturbance is not expected to directly affect any part of the country within the next 24 hours. However, a surge of strong winds is expected over the Bicol region, the Visayas and Mindanao starting (today)," Pagasa said in its 5 p.m. severe weather bulletin.

Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said that while Bicol appeared to be in Neneng's path, it did not mean that the tropical depression would hit the region, which is still reeling from the impact of Milenyo.

Based on its latest direction, which was 11 kph west-northwest, Neneng is expected to head for the northern Luzon-Taiwan area. It is, however, expected to pick up strength as it approaches Luzon.

"Neneng may further intensify into a typhoon, but as to when, we don't know. The curve shows it is moving toward north Luzon," Cruz said.

"While it's over the ocean, it's very likely that it will intensify. Milenyo was already near land when it became a tropical depression, but it still intensified. How much more this one," he said.

After making landfall in Samar and Bicol, Milenyo hit Metro Manila with 130-kph winds on Thursday morning, cutting off power, bringing down trees and billboards, and killing over 80 people.

Milenyo at 165-205 kph

The Guam-based Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) came out with a higher intensity reading for Milenyo placed at 165-205 kph. Pagasa data showed Milenyo packed maximum sustained winds of 130-160 kph, which later weakened to 110-140 kph.

Cruz said Guam's higher reading was due to its averaging time. The JTWC averages wind speed every minute while the meteorological stations in the Philippines, Japan, Australia and other countries in the Pacific use a 10-minute average.

"If you average wind speed using one minute, the frequency of a certain speed, say 100 kph, occurs several times. The frequency of occurrence heightens the intensity if you measure every minute," Cruz said.

He said Pagasa and other Pacific meteorological stations did not give much notice to the JTWC because of its different system.

Apples and oranges

"It's like comparing apples and oranges. That's just the way the United States is; it's different from everyone in the units it uses," Cruz said.

Neneng is the 14th tropical storm to enter the PAR this year. The Philippines experiences an average of 20 tropical storms each year, the highest incidence in this part of the world.

Asked if people should start preparing for another devastating tropical cyclone, Cruz said: "There's still a window, until Tuesday."

"Don't fret. We would know as early as Tuesday or Wednesday which area will be hit. Many things can still change as of now. There is enough time to warn those areas that were already affected by Milenyo," he said.

TYPHOON "Milenyo" destroyed this bridge at Barangay Padang in Legazpi City on the road to Tabaco City in Albay. Heavy equipment clear floodwaters that mixed with volcanic debris from Mount Mayon. NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Dream city jolted by nightmare

From page A1

The mayor said that after five years of hard work and people-centered governance, the city had made headway in its efforts to be among the top cities in the country. But with the destruction caused by Milenyo, the city is back to square one, far from being a dream city, she said.

Lee is set to speak in Japan and Malaysia about Sorsogon's experience in governance. With the recent calamity, the mayor said she didn't know what else there was to speak about Sorsogon as a dream city.

Damage to the entire province was initially placed at P2.23 billion, of which P1.27 billion was accounted for in damaged houses. Agriculture suffered damage worth P234.21 million; school facilities, P51 million, and infrastructure, P208 million.

The city remains without electric power and only Smart Communications' cell phone service has been functioning since Saturday.

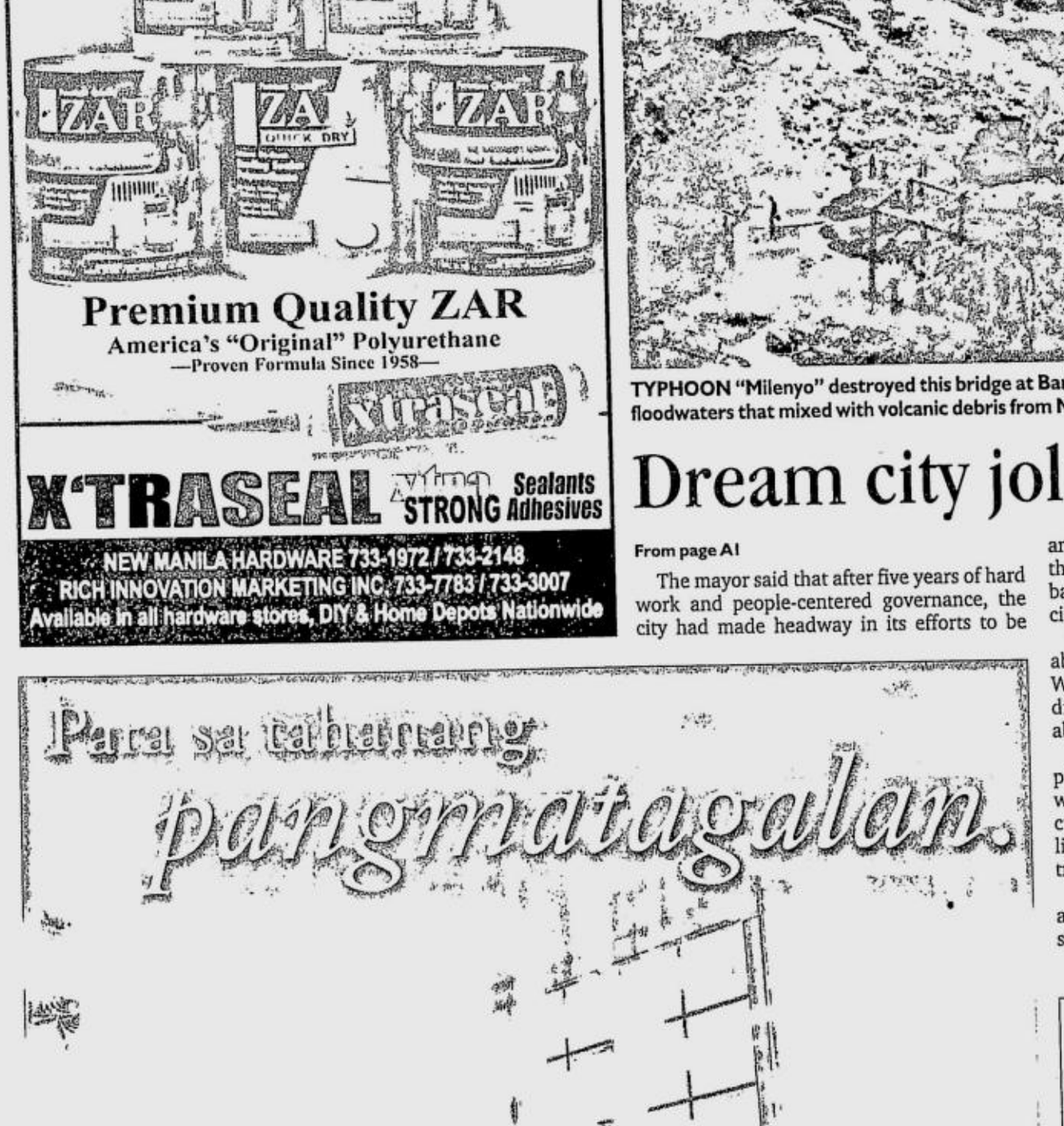
Ms Arroyo visited Barangay Talisay here, where all houses near the seaport were wiped out, and conferred with the residents. She assured them of government help.

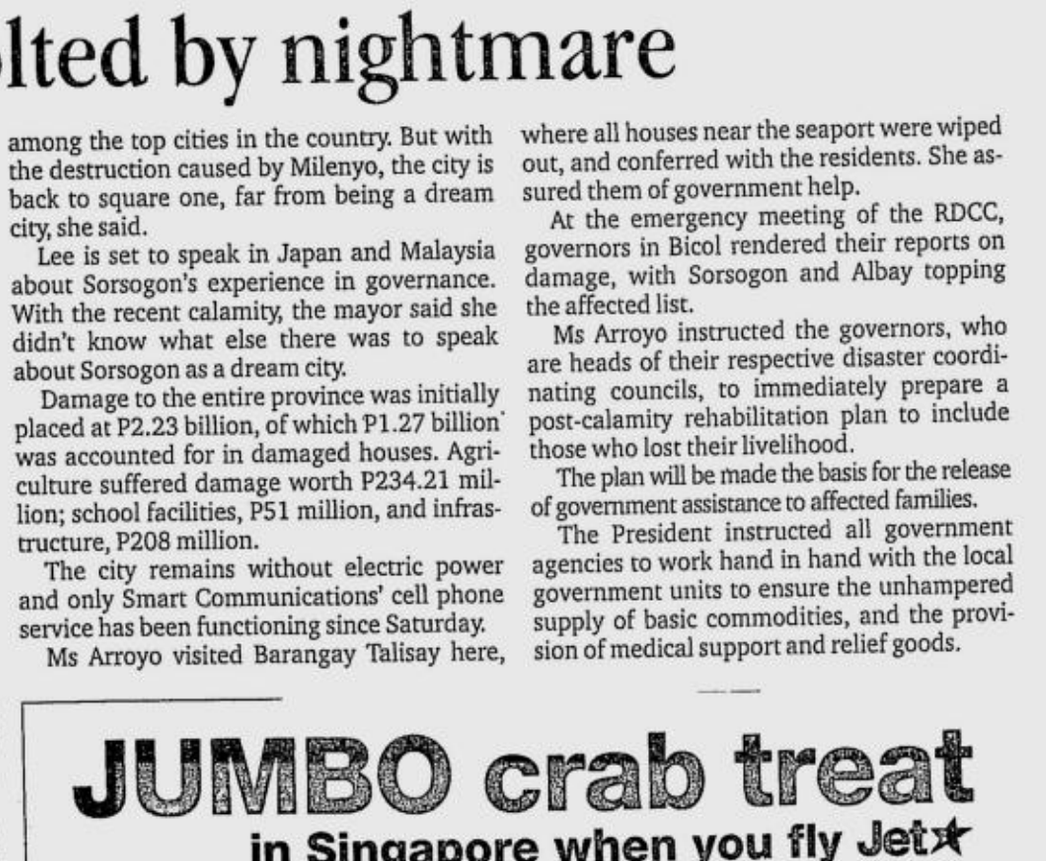
At the emergency meeting of the RDCC, governors in Bicol rendered their reports on damage, with Sorsogon and Albay topping the affected list.

Ms Arroyo instructed the governors, who are heads of their respective disaster coordinating councils, to immediately prepare a post-calamity rehabilitation plan to include those who lost their livelihood.

The plan will be made the basis for the release of government assistance to affected families.

The President instructed all government agencies to work hand in hand with the local government units to ensure the unhampered supply of basic commodities, and the provision of medical support and relief goods.





Beasts, like people, need blessing, too

By Marlet D. Salazar and Margaux C. Ortiz

THE RETURN OF THE NATIVE—NATIVE dogs (*askals*) and cats (*pusakals*) that is.

The Philippine native dog breed staged a comeback with an "All-Pinoy Dog Show" held yesterday at the carpark of the Malate Catholic Church, Manila, in celebration of World Animal Day.

The event was organized by animal welfare group Compassion and Responsibility for Animals (CARA).

"They (*askals*) are the most abused breed," said CARA's Yasmin Jadwani. "It is sad because the native dog is the true dog—what nature meant it to be."

After the winners of the dog show were announced, the blessing of the animals followed, presided over by Fr. Conal O' Connell and Malate parish priest Fr. John Leydon.

Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, was originally chosen as World Animal Day. On this occasion, animal life in all its forms is celebrated and special events are held all over the globe. Lately, numerous churches throughout the world observe the Sunday (yesterday) closest to Oct. 4 with a blessing of the animals.

FR. CONAL O' CONNELL sprinkles holy water on dogs and their humans on World Animal Day, observed yesterday at the Malate Church. The blessing of the animals emphasizes that people are guardians— not owners — of creatures, great and small. AP

Warm to strangers

Beninda, only a few months old, was adjudged the Friendliest Dog for being warm even to strangers. Her owner is 11-year-old Jomar Lucion who was accompanied by his mother.

The Sweetest Dog award went to TG, a female mongrel who is only a year old. Owner Joseph Baldomero, 16, of San Andres, Manila, said dogs were "smart, obedient, and *parang may isip katulad ng tao* (they appear to think like humans)."

Two rescued cats—one white and another orange—were named the Most Gorgeous Cats. They looked smug and self-assured while they watched the people from their carriers.

Other awards were given for the Healthiest Dog, Finest Coat, Most Beautiful, Most Dazzling Eyes, and more.

Judges for the event were veterinarian Rizalina Zuño and Jadwani.

CARA brought rescued dogs and cats for adoption. They conducted free rabies vaccination and veterinary consultations on mange management. They also gave away leaflets on responsible pet ownership, and information on the benefits of neutering animals.

The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) also held its own animal blessing yesterday at the Eastwood Central Plaza in Libis, Quezon City.

Pet fashion show

PAWS director Anna Hashim-Cabrera said their organization would be celebrating World Animal Day during the whole month of October with events like a celebrity pet fashion show and a beauty pageant for native dogs.

"We started with a special Mass in Eastwood City yesterday, where the animals received a special blessing from the priest," Cabrera said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

She explained that bringing pets to events like this would highlight their importance in the lives of the people around them.

"There is this misconception that human beings were given dominion over God's creation. The blessing of animals emphasizes that people are guardians—not owners—of these creatures," Cabrera said.

She said animal awareness in the country had increased in recent years as shown by the rising numbers of owners and pets attending such events.

The PAWS director said they would be holding a fashion show on Oct. 21 at the SM Mall of Asia featuring celebrities and their pets.

"The activity would help raise funds for our animal shelter in Quezon City," she said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 2, 2006
Guardian Angels

1st Reading: Ex 23:20-23
Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5, 10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

See that you do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you: their angels in heaven continually see the face of my heavenly Father."

Commentary

The angels have accompanied the people of God since the beginning, guarding us, bringing us to the place God prepares for us. We are to reverence and listen to the angels and offer no defiance against them. God's name is in the angel. Angel means "messenger of God," both a spirit of God's power and grace, and the Scripture, the Word of God, the presence of the Name of God in Jesus among us. Who or what are we listening to? The children are all those without power in this world: the poor, outcasts, sinners, those who disobey the law, slaves, servants, outsiders, and the sick—these are the greatest and first in the kingdom of God. We are to be angels to them and all of us have an angel that guards us and implores us to take heed and obey God's work.

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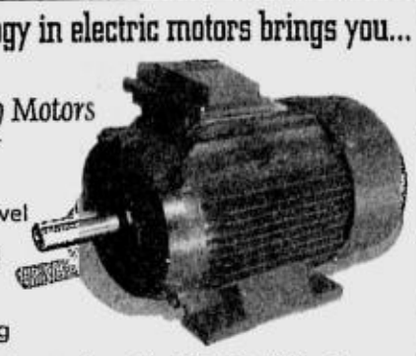

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Norwegian passenger faints as Naia sizzles

By Nikko Dizon

A SPARE AIR-CONDITIONING unit belonging to an airplane was brought in yesterday to cool the sizzling Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) that had been affected by a fluctuating power supply since Typhoon "Milenyo's" devastating sweep through Metro Manila on Thursday.

There was little the airport's cooling system could do for the passengers, employees and staff who bore the brunt of a nearly five-hour power outage—the worst at the airport over the past three days—prompting the emergency measure.

A 54-year-old Norwegian man fainted as he sweated it out at his airline's check-in counter early in the morning, an airport official told reporters.

"Meralco should have given priority to vital facilities like the airport," the official said as he wiped the perspiration off his forehead.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) had said that power in Metro Manila would be fully restored by yesterday.

One of the airport's two main power lines was reenergized at around 2:40 p.m., but the air-conditioning system was not immediately turned on at the Naia 1 to prevent a power surge, the official said.

An airport groundhandling company lent the air-conditioning unit, called an auxiliary power unit (APU), which provides cooling for various aircraft such as the Airbus 320 and Boeing 737.

Hoses to blow cool air

The APU was placed inside a small truck, parked at the Naia 1 departure curbside, and it blew cool air through two large hoses that snaked into the terminal's east wing.

Since Thursday, the Naia terminals had been running on standby generators, with the main power supply intermittently coming on.

The generators supplied electricity for basic airport facilities such as lighting, X-ray machines, baggage conveyors and aerobridges, the airport authority said in a statement.

The airport authority explained that the Naia 1's air-conditioning and check-in systems were not connected to the generator to avoid an overload.

Airport chief's apology

"We seek the indulgence of our passengers for the uncomfortable temperature in the terminal and the slightly longer passenger processing time due to the sheer volume of passengers in the terminal," airport chief Alfonso Cusi said in the statement.

Passengers had been complaining of the heat, airport employees told the INQUIRER.

A restaurant at Naia 1 frequented by passengers waiting for their flights could not serve cold drinks because of the blackout.

Domestic and international flights returned to normal on Thursday night despite the Luzon-wide power outage.

Millions still have no power

From page A1

lage, Tanyag, Daanghari, Maharlika and portions of Barangay Central).

As more bodies were recovered in the badly hit regions, the death toll rose to 103, with 57 of the deaths occurring in the Calabarzon region, according to OCD officials in the area.

Twenty-four deaths were recorded in Bicol, eight in Metro Manila, two in Central Luzon, one in Mimaropa, five in Western Visayas, another five in Eastern Visayas and one in Central Visayas.

Sixty-nine persons remained missing.

One of the latest bodies recovered was that of a male resident of Sunnybrooke Subdivision in Gen. Trias, Cavite. He was one of 15 who died in the area after a dam gave way.

Damage to crops, infrastructure and property could reach about P4 billion, officials have said.

In a briefing yesterday, Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said the distribution utility was stepping up its restoration work to normalize the power situation in its franchise area.

"We're working hard to energize all our Metro Manila circuits by tonight, but it doesn't mean that 100 percent of houses will have power by then. We'll have to isolate some areas," he said.

Meralco's franchise area includes Metro Manila and parts of Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon and Batangas.

Trees and billboards

Although Meralco personnel had been working overtime since Thursday to repair and restore damaged lines and poles, the task was made more difficult by trees and billboard frames that remained entangled with some of the company's power lines, Francisco said.

The trees were easier to manage, he said, since all that was needed to get these out of the way were chainsaws. It was more difficult to remove the steel billboard frames as acetylene torches had to be used to cut them, Franciso said.

Another problem was line pilferage as some individuals had been cutting and stealing felled Meralco lines, he said.

"It's difficult to predict when all houses will have their power restored. It may take until Tuesday. We just want to normalize the situation as much as we can," he said.

Francisco added that Meralco would be coordinating closely with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to ensure smooth traffic flow in areas where traffic lights remained without power.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said restoration efforts were actually faster now compared to more than 10 years ago, when Typhoon "Rosing" wrought havoc on Metro Manila.

By today, he said all Metro Manila railway systems—Light Rail Transit lines 1 and 2 and the Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3—should be back in full operation.

As of 1 p.m. yesterday, he said 76 of 79 Meralco transmission lines were back in operation.

Repair of substations

Two of those that remained without power were in Metro Manila—along the South Luzon Expressway east service road and Edsa Gardner, both of which were felled by billboards.

Almost all, or 100 of Meralco's 116 substations, had also had power restored, he said, with complete restoration dependent on National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) restoration of lines in southern Luzon.

The distribution circuits, Lotilla said, were the most difficult to restore due to downed trees and billboards.

Meralco has restored power in all 124 of its circuits in the northern area (from Malabon to Balintawak in Quezon City), 319 of the 386 circuits in the central area (from Balintawak to Alabang), and 100 of the 150 circuits in the southern area (from Alabang to Batangas and Quezon).

570 poles felled

Out of Meralco's more than 600,000 poles in its franchise area, Francisco said it had confirmed damage to only 570—444 felled or broken, 58 leaning and 68 cracked or slightly damaged.

The number of damaged poles is likely to go up in the coming days, including the cost required to repair or replace them.

At 1 p.m. yesterday, Francisco said total damage to power lines so far could be placed at more than P500 million, excluding those in the southern areas.

"We haven't counted all the toppled poles, so the damage estimate will surely go up as the days go by. We do have provisions for damage every year. We have no insurance for this. We're self-insured for typhoons," he explained.

Power in south

Lotilla said the calamity fund, worth more than P1 billion, could be tapped to finance restoration work all over the country, particularly those to be done by small electric cooperatives in the provinces.

While most Metro Manila residents already had power restored in their areas over the past three days, those in southern Luzon, particularly in Bicol, will have to wait a few days or even a couple of weeks more for the power situation in their areas to normalize.

Transco president Arthur Aguilar said that as of 2 p.m. yesterday, 72 percent of power in the Luzon grid, equivalent to a load of 3,408 megawatts, had been restored.

By the end of Sunday and the beginning of Monday, the state firm should provide additional power to most of Meralco's Cavite franchise area with the energization of the Dasmariñas-Lakeview, Dasmariñas-Tagaytay and Dasmariñas-Ternate lines.

The Dasmariñas-Rosario line, which serves Rosario and Gen. Trias towns and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority in Cavite, could expect power to be restored by Wednesday.

In Quezon province and the Bicol region, where some 40 steel towers were toppled or damaged by the typhoon, full restoration could take place in the next several days, stretching to the next two weeks.

Power supply

Electricity was restored in Naga City in Camarines Sur on Saturday, following the energization of the transmission line linking the Tiwi geothermal power facility of the National Power Corp. and Transco's Naga substation.

Daraga, Tabaco and Legazpi City should have power by this morning, officials said.

In Sorsogon, however, where more than 60 Transco wooden poles need to be repaired, full power restoration could not be expected until Oct. 18.

On the supply side, Napocor officer in charge Silvano Zanoria said there was adequate power available, with more than 7,000 MW available for dispatch anytime in the Luzon grid.

Palace assurance

Malacañang reassured the nation yesterday that the national government was doing its best to fast-track the complete restoration of power, communication and water.

"The President wants the daily business of our people back to normalcy soonest," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"The tragedy has been disheartening but our nation needs to be strong to cope with and to overcome these trying times," Bunye said in a statement.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo "continues to muster full public participation for the speedy recovery of devastated areas."

He said the government, with the help of local government units and the private sector, was continuing relief efforts in Bicol and Calabarzon.

"(W)e assure the beleaguered families and communities that the national government will stand beside them until they can get back on their feet," Bunye said. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Alcuin Papa

Metro classes resume today except in some schools

CLASSES IN METRO MANILA will resume today except in Pasay City, Muntinlupa, Parañaque and some schools in Manila, Navotas and Taguig-Pateros, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said yesterday.

In Manila, classes are suspended at Recto High, Tondo High, Aguinaldo High, Nolasco High, Villegas High, Manuel L. Quezon Elementary, Sta. Ana Elementary, Bagong Diwa Elementary and Bagong Barangay Elementary.

Classes are suspended in the following schools in Taguig-Pateros: Taguig National High, Signal High, R. Papa Elementary, Maharlika Elementary, Santo Rosario Elementary and Taguig Elementary.

In Navotas, classes are suspended at Dampalit Elementary (including Dampalit Unit I), Bagong Bayan Elementary, Daang Hari Elementary and Tanza Elementary. *Alcuin Papa*

Telcos say 90 percent of service restored

From page A1

Subscribers like Janet Rañola, a consultant of a start-up firm in Makati City, had to charge their cell phones in their offices. When offices were closed over the weekend, they turned to charging stations. "I had to check in at a hotel," she said.

Those who had no work or had very little money, like the Fairview-based messenger who wanted to be known only as Jerry, had to suffer the heat, the dark and the isolation at home. "There's nothing I can do (about the situation)," he lamented.

The mobile phone service disruption may have cost Philippine candidate Anna Maris Igpit a place in the Miss World pageant. Votes were sent in via text and the Internet. *(See the story on Page A22.)*

Telcos said services were just as affected by the damage wrought by Milenyo as the prolonged power outage.

Since major repairs have been completed, commercial power restoration was more crucial to smooth services at this point, they said.

Generators

To keep services going, affected cell sites were using generators. Fixed line cabinets in powerless areas were being recharged by roving Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and BayanTel engineers.

Interruptions to fixed line and mobile services started on Thursday when Milenyo's strong winds damaged cell sites and telephone lines. The typhoon also caused a Luzon-wide blackout.

PLDT reported 388 fixed line facilities and cell sites damaged or lacking power. This reduced capacity for mobile services delivered by Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. (for Talk 'N Text).

Globe Telecom Inc., the country's second largest telco, sustained damage in about 400 sites. Digital Philippines Inc. (Digitel) and its mobile arm Sun Cellular had 402 sites down due to bent antennae, power outages and flooded provincial facilities.

BayanTel also reported damage to its infrastructure and lost power in Quezon City, Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela), as well as in the cities of Naga and Legazpi in Bicol.

PLDT spokesperson Mon Isberto said 92 percent of PLDT, Smart and Talk 'N Text services were back to normal. The remaining 8 percent of interrupted services were mostly related to lack of power for street-level fixed line cabinets and cell sites that help improve indoor reception.

"Full restoration of services depends on commercial power," Isberto said.

Subscribers may call 888 (for Smart) and 171 (for PLDT) to report difficulties and to help PLDT ensure continued service.

BayanTel invoked the same caveat as PLDT when it announced that 80 percent of its services had been restored.

BayanTel spokesperson John Rojo acknowledged that only minor clearing operations in some facilities were ongoing. "Telecom facilities are power-dependent so the sooner power is restored in service areas, the better," Rojo said.

Subscribers can call 412-1212 (landline), 411-2000 (DSL) and 449-2200 (corporate data) to get updates or to report problems.

Globe has restored 85 percent of its services in Metro Manila and 97 percent in Bicol, according to spokesperson Jones Campos. Overall, 95 percent of Globe cell sites nationwide were back to full capacity.

Report lost signal

Campos advised subscribers to report lost signals and other concerns to aid Globe engineers in restoring services. The help desk numbers are 211 (mobile) and 730-1000 (landline). "We could be back to full capacity as early as tonight (Sunday) provided commercial power is back in all affected areas," he said.

Bill Pamintuan, Digitel vice president, said the phone company and its mobile arm, Sun, had restored 85 percent of its service nationwide.

He said engineers in the provinces were still repairing bent antennae and draining flooded relay stations.

Digitel/Sun subscribers can ask for updates or report service interruptions to 200 (mobile help desk) and 1710 (Digitel fixed line). "We expect normal service to resume in the next 24 to 48 hours," Pamintuan said.

In the meantime, handsets still need charging.

Illegal recruiters forewarned

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS AND Employment Administration has linked up with local government units and a telecommunication firm to boost the government's drive against illegal recruiters as well as educate the public on the pros and cons of working abroad.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz last week signed agreements with Mayors Sherwin Gatchalian of Valenzuela City and Freddie Tinga of Taguig City for the holding of a common awareness and information drive against illegal recruitment.

Under the agreement, the POEA and the local governments would jointly set up and maintain an office to attend to victims of illegal recruiters.

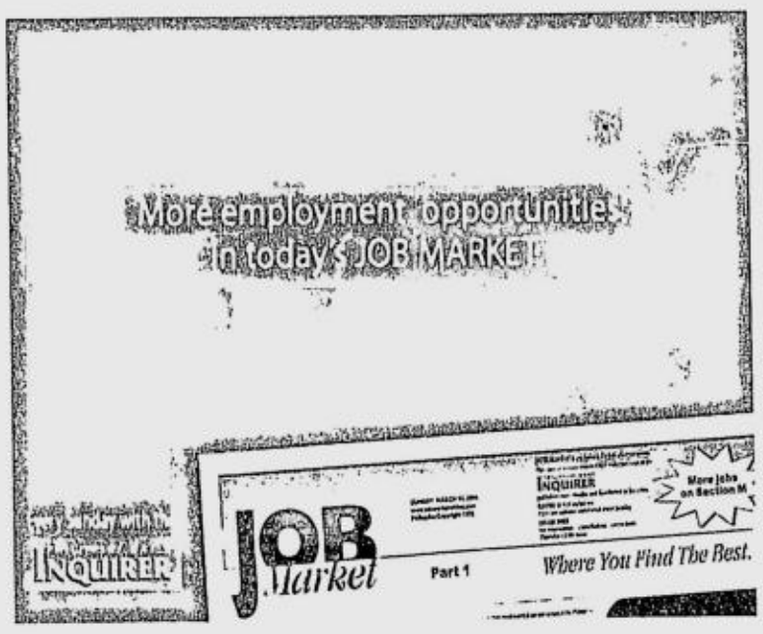
Similar pacts with the city governments of Quezon and Mandaluyong were being readied, said Baldoz, explaining that the POEA wanted to increase awareness of recruitment problems to help would-be overseas Filipino workers make informed decisions.

Baldoz said that under the POEA's recently launched pre-employment orientation seminar (PEOS), those interested in working abroad were being informed of harsh migration realities, anti-illegal recruitment practices, and labor and employment conditions abroad, among other things.

The POEA has partnered with Globe Telecom in the printing of PEOS posters and brochures, and the production and airing of TV, radio ads and newspaper ads, and the installation of electronic billboards.

Baldoz said the agency has been training PEOS managers and staff on recent overseas employment policies and programs as well as equipping them with the tools to implement the PEOS.

PEOS managers in General Santos and Davao cities, Bulacan, the National Capital Region and the Mimaropa region have undergone the training. Sessions are scheduled in Bataan on Oct. 18-20; in Bohol, Oct. 24-26, and Naga City, Nov. 8-10.



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TUCP bucks new fees for OFWs

THE TRADE UNION Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) yesterday expressed opposition to the Manila International Airport Authority's plan to impose a "security surcharge" of $3.50 or P175 on every departing overseas Filipino worker.

The additional fee, although meant to upgrade the security system at the country's premier airport, would unduly burden OFWs, TUCP secretary general Ernesto Herrera said in a statement.

"Section 35 of the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act expressly exempts migrant workers not only from the travel tax, but also from airport fees," he said.

Herrera, who authored the 1995 law, was reacting to Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi's statement on Thursday that the surcharge would be collected "starting anytime this October" from all foreign-bound passengers departing from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Herrera said the Miaa was prohibited from collecting "any airport fees" from departing OFWs who present a valid overseas employment certificate issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

The certificate serves as the worker's travel exit clearance at airport and immigration counters, and exempts him or her from the travel tax and port fees.

Cusi said the money collected would go toward a P1.25-billion airport security development plan.

The plan involves the rollout of new security and emergency systems, such as surveillance cameras and monitors, upgraded communications equipment, metal and explosives detection devices, a smart ID system for airport staff and a special weapons and tactics mobile van, among other things.

Jerome Aning and Leila Salaverria

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On World Habitat Day, Neda says RP will be fully urbanized by 2050

AT LEAST 40 MILLION PEOPLE now live in the country's urban areas. By 2010, this is expected to increase to about 56 million, and further to 82 million by 2025, a report by the National Economic Development Authority said.

The Neda report further predicted that before mid-century the Philippines would be fully urbanized with an urban population of 127 million.

Global celebration

At present, there are about 200 communities of over 50,000 population, 117 official cities and 26 municipal applications for cityhood pending in Congress.

The Neda report was cited in line with the global celebration of World Habitat Day (WHD) today.

WHD aims to highlight the challenges that cities face and the solutions for ensuring sustainable urbanization and development.

From rural to urban

The Neda report pointed out that "natural population growth rates remain high and population continues to shift from rural to urban areas."

In the most rapidly urbanizing areas, such as Davao and General Santos cities in Mindanao, Neda said urban growth rates of over 6 percent per annum were not unusual, while many areas in near-urban Manila such as Dasmariñas, Cavite, and Santa Rosa, Laguna, had been experiencing growth rates of 10 percent per annum recently.

Continual flow of people

The 2006 report of UN-Habitat on the State of the World's Cities estimated that half of the world's population would be living in urban areas by 2007. Global figures showed that one of three city dwellers or nearly one billion people lived in slums and informal settlements. This number will increase due to the continual flow of people into urban areas, the report said.

As the lead UN agency for shelter and sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat has been providing assistance in implementing the Cities Without Slums Initiative.

Pag-Ibig Fund

For this year's WHD celebration, UN-Habitat will award the Pag-Ibig Fund with the 2006 International Scroll of Honor "for its housing program that has ensured quality public services."

Pag-Ibig Fund president and CEO Romero F. S. Quimbo has been invited to receive the award in Kazan, Russia.

Looking for work? Dioceses set job fairs

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS HELPing parishioners find jobs.

Now on its third edition, Trabaho at Negosyo Fair 2006 moves to St. Peter Parish on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City on Oct. 4 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The mega job fair is sponsored by the archdiocese of Manila and the five dioceses of Caloocan, Pasig, Novaliches, Parañaque and Cubao.

Residents of the dioceses of Caloocan and Pasig had their job fairs at the San Roque Cathedral on Sept. 20 and at the Simbayanan ni Maria Development Cooperative on Sept. 27, respectively.

Radyo Veritas 846 has lent its support to the project and over 25 companies looking for local and foreign employment are participating.

The following areas will have their job fairs: Las Piñas City at the Parish of the Five Wounds of Our Lord on Real Street, Talon, on Oct. 11; Quezon City at the Christ the King Parish at Project 7, on Oct. 18, and Manila at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Leveriza, on Oct. 25.

The National Statistics Office, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Social Security System and National Bureau of Investigation provide their services to job applicants.

Livelihood and entrepreneurship seminars are conducted by the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center and Carica Leap Foundation. For more information, Lanie Cabral at Veritas 846 may be reached at tel. 925-7931 to 40.

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Scenes of destruction show nature's power

By Lyn Rillon

(Editor's note: The writer is a photographer of the INQUIRER.)

SORSOGON CITY—OUR GROUP arrived on Saturday on a C-130 transport plane in Albay whose Air Transportation Office facilities had just been put back in order. It was two days after Typhoon "Milenyo" hit Bicol that planes were allowed to land at the Legazpi City airport.

We took a 15-minute ride on a Bell helicopter belonging to Malacañang, together with a government official, to take aerial photographs.

As the helicopter circled over the countryside in Sorsogon province, the extent of the typhoon's fury became apparent. A large communication tower lay on a mountainside. Ricefields were leveled. Trees were broken and leafless, and hundreds of homes had their roofs partially or completely blown off.

After we landed here, we boarded a vehicle that passed through several sections of the commercial center.

The scenes that greeted us were a testament to the power of nature. Along Maharlika Highway, large trees and other debris lay on the ground. Clothes blown off by the wind and GI sheets torn from roofs still hung on the walls of business establishments.

Power and communication lines were cut and hung in uneven loops. Some houses made of wood were destroyed. The roofs of several elementary schools were blown off.

Only a few establishments, such as hole-in-the wall *ukay ukay* shops, were in business.

A century-old tree was uprooted and crashed into the left side of the capitol building. Its thick branches pierced the walls.

Breakwater smashed

In Barangay Talisay, the breakwater was smashed in several sections.

The shanties at a coastal settlement in Talisay were destroyed. Residents were still searching through the debris for usable items, like clothes, plywood, pans and chairs.

Folks in the community didn't have a "finders keepers" mentality, according to a female resident. If they found something that they knew was owned by a neighbor, they gave it back.

As I was shooting, 66-year-old resident Maria Collantes who was picking up things stopped and asked which media outfit I was with. She then said that she hoped that she and the other residents would be seen in Manila so that their relatives there could send them some money and other forms of support because there was no way they could send out word from the village.

No communication link

They could not make outside contact because there was no electricity and the fixed line phone connections were down. In some areas of the city, there was little or no cell phone signal.

Even our photo correspondent was frustrated because all his photos taken the day after the typhoon struck could not be sent in anyway.

Most people were still reeling from the effects of Milenyo. A woman on the staff of Villa Isabel, one of the new hotels here, said she and other employees didn't know where to even begin.

Part of the hotel's roof had been blown off and the remaining leaves on the trees outside shredded. Its facilities were running on a generator as they were one of the establishments who could afford one.

Later in the afternoon, on our way back to Legazpi, most of the coastal towns we passed had also been destroyed.

People were slowly putting their lives back to normal, hanging clothes, foam beds, rugs and other items by the roadside.

Makiling swallowed his family

From page A1

cause we are poor, I could take them there rarely," he said.

Determined to grant his daughter's wish, Laganzo was able to save P1,000.

Five days before their planned celebration, tragedy struck.

Rampaging waters from Mount Makiling hurled tons of rocks and fallen trees on the upland village of Bagong Silang in Los Baños, Laguna.

His wife and two children, then asleep, were among the 14 people buried under the avalanche.

"Is this the gift I deserve?" the grieving father asked.

In one horrifying moment, Laganzon had lost his entire family.

His father and a cousin, who had sought refuge at his house for a cup of hot coffee at the height of the typhoon, were also killed in the flash flood.

"I don't know what to feel," he told the INQUIRER. "My children are gone. My wife is gone. I have nothing left."

He sobbed as he spoke.

"There they are," he said, pointing to the white caskets in front of the altar at the San Antonio Church in Barangay Bitin here.

Misery everywhere

Grieving relatives of the other victims tried to comfort each other, filling the small church with scenes of misery.

The road connecting the village to Los Baños was still blocked by fallen trees, forcing barangay officials to hold the wake in Bay.

Two of the coffins held the cold, frail bodies of Camille and John Lloyd.

The body of Laganzon's wife, who was recovered a day after the tragedy in a creek in Bay a few hundred meters from where the Laganzons' house once stood, was still at a funeral parlor.

Suddenly, Laganzon broke into a loud wail—four men carrying the casket bearing his wife's remains had arrived at the church.

Eerie morning

It took a while for Laganzon to summon enough courage to peer at his wife's face.

"What happened to you? ... I wasn't even able to come to your help," he said again and again, while punching his right thigh in grief.

The fractures on Marcelina's face showed the ordeal she had gone through. She was almost beyond recognition, Laganzon said.

The morning of Sept. 28, a Thursday, arrived in Bagong Silang with strong winds and continuous rains.

By 10 a.m., Laganzon said, the village had become eerily dark.

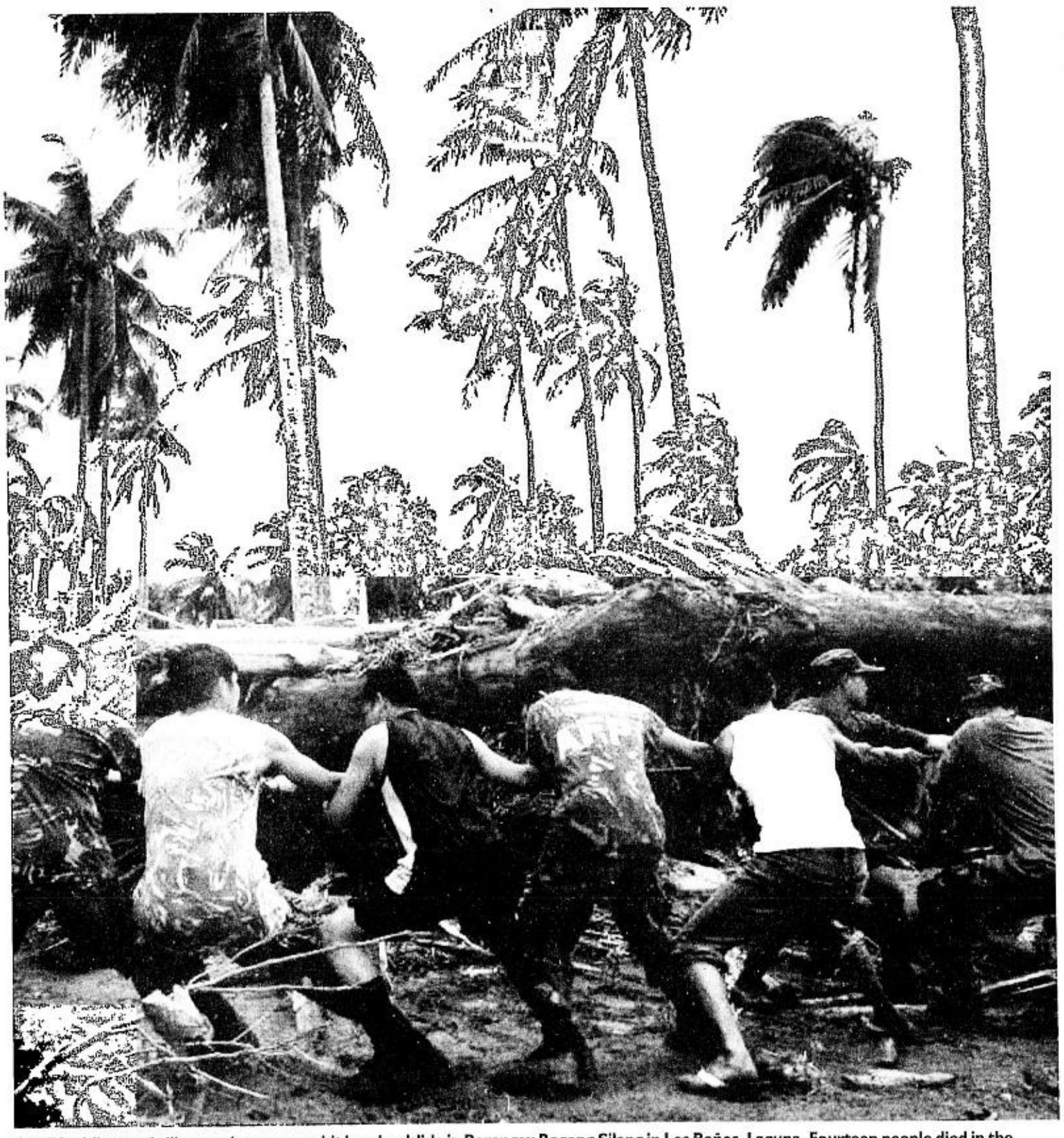
'Like a plane crash'

As he came out of the house to clear a canal in front, he heard a loud, thumping sound.

"It was as if an airplane had crashed," he said. "That was what the sound was like."

He said he could feel the earth move as though his home was being tossed by "a wave."

But the residents were already used to hard rains and they were not frightened at all, Laganzon said.



ARMY soldiers and villagers clear an area hit by a landslide in Barangay Bagong Silang in Los Baños, Laguna. Fourteen people died in the landslide caused by Typhoon "Milenyo." REM ZAMORA

He said he had also put his children to sleep "just like what I normally do when it rains in our place."

His father Gregorio Laganzon, 75, and cousin Elmer Malolos had gone inside and asked for coffee.

Rush of black water

Just as he was calling to his wife to bring out the coffee, walls of water rushed down from the mountains.

"I don't know what exactly took place. It happened too fast. I just saw our house being toppled by the water and mud. The water was black in color," he recalled.

Laganzon said that he, too, was swept away by the water. He found himself sandwiched between two big logs but was able to extricate himself.

He showed the INQUIRER the injuries he suffered.

Despite feeling weak, Laganzon said he struggled up and looked for his wife and children.

Nobody answered

"I was calling out their names," he said.

All he found in his search were rocks and fallen trees.

The village was so heavily littered with debris that horses wouldn't even be able to pass through it, said Supt. Steve Ludan, head of the police search and rescue team.

It took a full day before other rescuers arrived at the village.

Ludan said the damage to life and property in the area was "simply unimaginable."

Ludan, also the chief of the 406th Laguna provincial mobile group, said even the residents were confounded by what happened.

Village turns into a river

He supported the claims of the residents that there was no illegal logging in their area.

"The people there are still puzzled by the event. The entire community was destroyed," Ludan said.

Laganzon, who had lived in the area since birth, said it was the first time such a calamity had struck Bagong Silang.

As a result of the flash flood, the village of about 500 had become a river, residents told the INQUIRER.

Laganzon said he could not accept that he was now alone.

He said the images of his children and wife coming up to him to hand him a towel as he returned from a day's work in the forest kept playing in his mind.

Birthday in cemetery

"This is a nightmare. I wish I had died, too. How I wish I had not lived to see the day without them. My life is nothing without them. They are the reasons I work hard," he said, crying.

Despite their poverty, theirs was a close-knit family. His wife helped support them by selling fried bananas at the barangay school.

Laganzon said he hoped he could bury his family before his birthday, "so I can still celebrate my birthday with the four of us even at the cemetery."

He does not want to go back to Bagong Silang.

Another mourner

"How will I start my life when I don't have any reason to live?"

Sofia Toledo, 40, was also in anguish.

Three of her five children were swept away by the flash flood.

Only the body of her eldest daughter, Kristine, 22, has been recovered.

Toledo's son-in-law, Jerry Ramos, who was with her children inside the house when the waters came down from the mountain, is also missing.

During the wake, she approached the INQUIRER and asked for help in sending a message to the authorities.

Aside from financial support for the burial, Toledo wanted Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro to continue with the retrieval operations until her other children were found.

Last goodbye

"It is more painful for a mother not to see the bodies of her children," she said.

She also asked that the authorities do something to speed up the case of her husband, a murder suspect now held in the provincial jail. In the five years he has been in jail, there has not been a single hearing of his case, she said.

And she has one other request of the governor—to allow her husband to attend Kristine's wake.

"It has been a year since my husband last saw his daughter. It's very unfortunate that he will have to see her now inside a coffin," she said.

Rich troop to hotels but poor have nowhere to go

From page A1

alien to wealthy families seen by the INQUIRER trooping to expensive hotels the other night. Not a few came in home attire—shirt, shorts and slippers—apparently expecting the cool hotel rooms to be home for the next two days or so.

Outside the Manila Hotel, for instance, was a parade of high-end SUVs and vans belonging to families billeted at the hotel.

"We're fully booked today," a security guard told the INQUIRER.

Many of the families came from around Metro Manila where electricity had yet to be fully restored following the massive power outage on Thursday, he said.

Many of them killed time listening to a pianist at the lobby or a band's performance that came as midnight approached.

Refuge at malls

Not far from the hotel, two shopping malls were packed with actual and window shoppers. The apparent common denominator was the yearning to escape the oppressive heat at home.

At Robinson's Place in Ermita, Manila, many shoppers waited until closing time if only to delay the inevitable trip back home.

Similarly crowded was the supermarket on the ground floor where many shoppers appeared to be panic-buying. Carts contained packs of candles, mosquito repellent, matches, mineral water, canned goods and instant noodles.

"It's better to prepare," said one shopper. "We don't know how long the blackout will last."

Double whammy

It was a double whammy for vegetable vendor Jerry Indico, 40. Moments after the electricity came back, a fire ripped through his neighborhood in Barangay Buting in Pasig City, razing his house and a dozen others.

"This was worst than enduring the typhoon," said Indico, sitting in front of the multipurpose hall of the Buting Elementary School, where his family and around 40 neighbors were evacuated.

Electric fans were all around the hall, a mother was charging her cell phone, another had plugged her electric pot, taking advantage of the restored power supply—things residents in other areas in the city could not yet enjoy since the typhoon struck.

Indico said he had managed to switch on his television set for almost an hour after nearly three days of not being used. But it ended up in smoke during the fire. *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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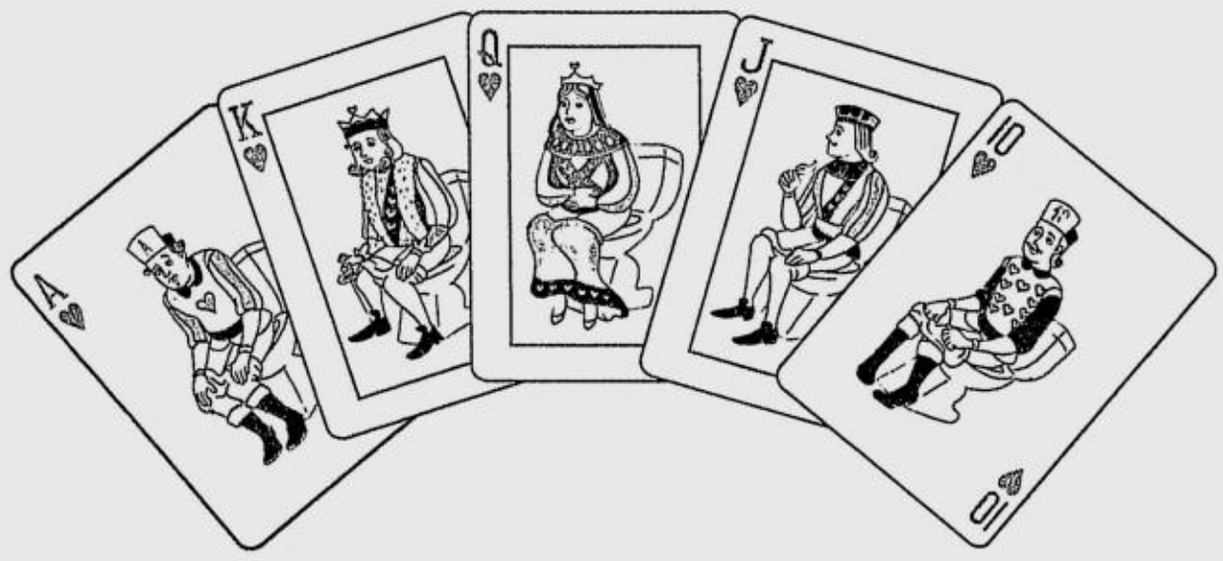

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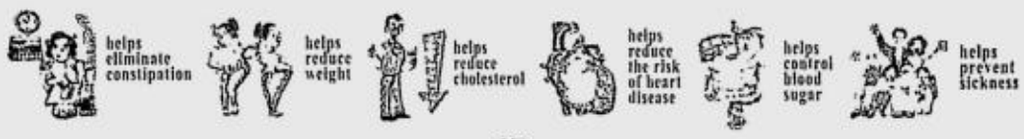

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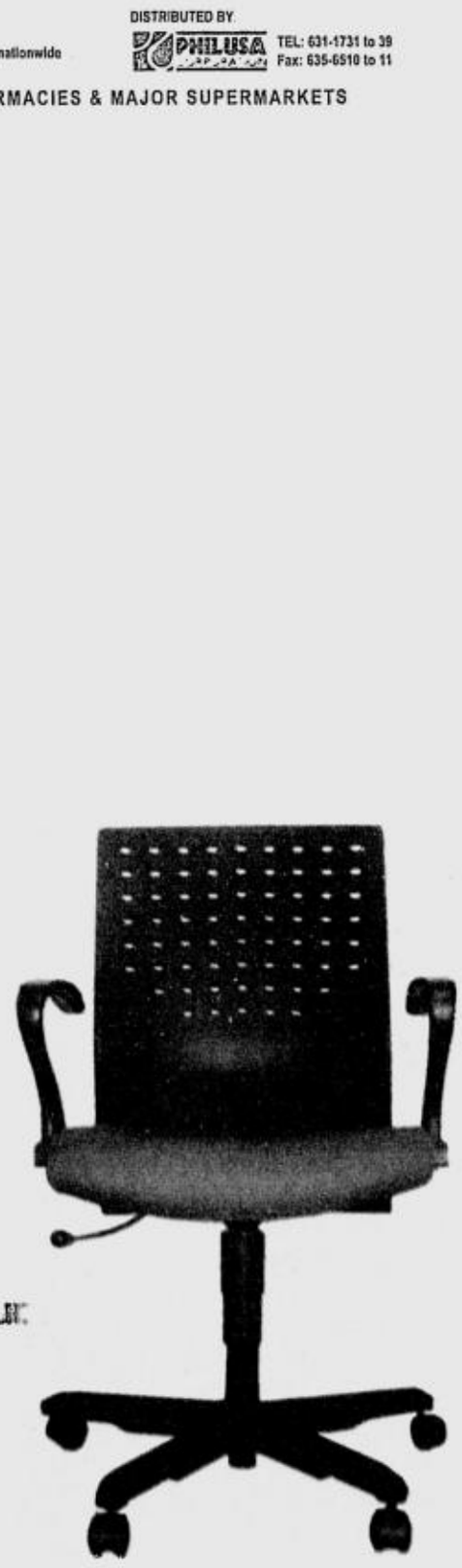

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OPINION

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It's showtime

NO, WE ARE NOT REFERRING TO THE THIRD AND deciding game, which gets underway later today, between the Ateneo de Manila Blue Eagles and the University of Sto. Tomas Growling Tigers for the UAAP men's basketball championship **that** has excitement written all over it. We are referring to something considerably less thrilling, but with important implications for the rule of law as well as for the cause of election reform: We mean the final decision of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez on which officials, among the many involved in the automated counting machines scandal, should be held liable for it.

EDITORIAL

As columnist Solita Monsod reminded the public the other day, the Supreme Court had extended Gutierrez's deadline to Sept. 30. That was Saturday. We should expect to hear from both the Ombudsman and, maybe, the high court this week.

Through Monsod's column, however, we have already heard from a graft investigator in the Office of the Ombudsman, who filed a report on the Commission on Elections controversy last Sept. 4. Gutierrez's decision will be based in large part on that Field Investigation Office report.

And what did that report find? "The issues in the instant case may appear to be complicated. In reality, however, the issues to be addressed are simple enough. Was there an illegal transaction? Should herein respondents be held responsible therefor? To these questions, given the established facts and the evidence presented by the government, there can only be one answer and that is in the affirmative. Clearly all the respondents should be held criminally, administratively and civilly liable."

Let us duly note: The recommendation is to hold "all the respondents" liable. That includes, in Monsod's summation, "all the sitting Comelec commissioners at the time the voided contract was signed, plus eight other Comelec officers, plus an official of the Department of Science and Technology and the six incorporators and stockholders of the private company involved (Mega Pacific Consortium or Mega Pacific e-Solutions Inc.)."

In contrast, the partial decision of the Ombudsman, issued just before the high court's original June 30 deadline, found only one commissioner, the five members of the Bids and Awards Committee, and the consortium's incorporators liable.

To be sure, we do not assert that the Ombudsman must always agree with the conclusions and follow the recommendations of a Field Investigation Office—or indeed, that a person in authority must always accept as his own the conclusions and recommendations of a subordinate office.

But the facts the graft investigator found, and the course of action she recommends, fit the pattern of corruption and connivance already established by the Supreme Court and the Senate. It is therefore Gutierrez's responsibility to explain discrepancies, if there are any, between the field investigation and the official report of the Ombudsman.

The burden of explanation lies with her, and no one else.

Last July, we summed up our thoughts on the Ombudsman's first, partial findings by coining the two Merceditas Rules. The first "declares all impeachable officials—that is, public officials who can be removed from office only through impeachment—off limits, or out of reach of the Ombudsman's long arm." The second "places a ceiling on public officials' criminal liability; apparently for the Ombudsman, liability rises to a level of innocuousness. In the Mega Pacific case, the bidding committee is completely liable; the commissioner in charge of the project is partly liable; but the commissioners who approved the bid and awarded the anomalous contract? Not at all liable."

Now a graft investigator working for Gutierrez challenges that second rule, by finding Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and other commissioners, not just Resurreccion Borra, liable for the anomalous contract. Like thousands of barrels of indelible ink, that anomaly has stained the Comelec itself. Will the Ombudsman accept the challenge—and help a scandal-weary public believe, yet again, that the rule of law also means holding all officials to account?

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God's warnings to GMA, JDV

AMBITION WON OVER THE FEAR OF GOD IN the case of Speaker Jose de Venecia after his scary plane flight to Cebu. JDV was on his way to Iloilo when the plane developed engine trouble and had to be diverted to Mactan airport.

According to Sen. Franklin Drilon, who was with JDV in the plane, Joe was so worried about his mortality. After the plane landed without an event, he told the senator that he had prayed to God all throughout the flight and made many promises—one of which could be that he would abandon the Cha-cha (Charter change) train if he survived.

That good news lasted very briefly. The very next day, the bad news came to light again when JDV called up the INQUIRER to say that he had not abandoned the Cha-Cha train and that his scary flight only made him decide to try harder. Ambition and megalomania won again.

That is human nature. During a crisis, humans pray intensely to God and make many promises should he be spared, but once the crisis is over, they forget the promises and go back to their old, wicked ways. And JDV is only human.

But a neighbor, who is a Bible freak, told me at the church that the scary flight was a warning from God to Joe. He should heed it, he said. He should have already turned a new leaf when his house in Makati burned, added my neighbor, but he did not change, and so God is giving him another warning. The sudden death of former Press Secretary Greg Cendaña, a friend and fellow Panggalatok who was helping Joe in his press relations, was also a warning, my neighbor continued, but it had no effect on Joe.

By the same token (my neighbor wasn't finished yet), Typhoon Milenyo and the other natural disasters that have visited this country recently, were warnings to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"That's so? How did you know that?" I asked.

"You remember Moses and the Egyptian Pharaoh?" he said. "Moses had asked the Pharaoh to let his people go (away from Egypt), but the Pharaoh wouldn't. So God caused

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

plagues on Egypt. First there was an invasion of frogs, snakes and insects on the Egyptian people. When that didn't work, God unleashed an epidemic of painful boils on them. When that still didn't work, God made all the firstborn in Egypt die, including the Pharaoh's son. That did it. The Pharaoh let the Israelites go and Moses parted the Red Sea and went in search of the Promised Land, which turned out to be Israel."

"In the same way," he continued, "the series of natural calamities that have been inflicted on us since GMA became President could be God's warnings. Have you noticed that they came one after another? First, the bird flu and SARS. Then the landslides in Quezon and Aurora where many people died, then the frequent floods. Then two volcanoes erupting at the same time—that's very unusual. Then came the oil spill in the Visayas. Now comes a strong typhoon, with another one right behind it. What more warnings do we need? The next one may be Sodom and Gomorrah."

"What is God trying to tell us?" I asked.

"He is telling GMA to stop her sinful ways." (It is now clear that he is no fan of GMA.) Remember, God sees the truth but waits. He knows who cheated in the 2004 elections. He knows who is our real President. He wants the sinful to repent and make amends. The trouble is people forget once the crisis is over.

"I am sure GMA prayed to God and made many promises when she was about to be toppled from Malacañang, but after surviving it, she has forgotten her promises."

"That's nothing new," I said. "She also forgot her promise not to run for reelection."

"Yes, people easily forget. I am afraid that God may be so angry that the next calamity may be another Deluge. The Great Flood—(remember?) where only Noah, his family and the animals were spared—was meant by God to cleanse the world so it could start all over again. But the world soon went back to its wicked ways and so what do we have now? Wars, pestilence, famine, natural calamities. Maybe the end of the world is coming."

Naturally, that scared me. Who wouldn't be afraid of the end of the world? I've never covered an end-of-the-world cataclysm before, and I wouldn't know how to go about it, although I realize it would be the scoop of a lifetime. Now I would be able to report whether the world ended with a bang or with a whimper. I hoped it would be with a whimper because I can't stand noise, especially the big bangs. So I hastily bade him goodbye so that I could go home and prepare for the end of the world.

I thought about all the other grafters stealing to provide for their future, materially, only there is no future. "You can't take it with you," I said, "when the world ends."

They may get their hearts' desire—in my mind, I could hear my neighbor talking—GMA will not be ousted from the presidency, JDV may finally become prime minister, their allies may be incredibly wealthy, but how would they matter when they face our Maker on Judgment Day and have to account for their actions while on earth?

The next day, with the fallen trees cleared and the streets swept clean, I saw my neighbor passing by. Still bothered, I asked him: "When will the world end?"

"Not yet," he replied. "I just bought a lotto ticket."

* *

TODAY'S JOKE:

Petron to GMA: Ma'am, can we borrow Mike Defensor to help us clean up the oil spill?

GMA: Why him? *Wala na siya sa* DENR.

Petron: *Siya ang itatapon namin sa dagat. Lakas sumipsip eh.*

Millennium blues

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER IN THE EARLY 1970S READING an article in the Wall Street Journal about a typhoon in Bangladesh. The typhoon was exceptionally severe to have merited space in a newspaper whose normal attention, as its name proclaimed, was riveted to the ramparts of American capitalism. At the time, Bangladesh was an epically benighted country, having just emerged from the loins of Pakistan in a grinding war. It was so impoverished, or indeed famished, that George Harrison, the "quiet Beatle," loudly drew attention to its plight in a concert called simply enough "The Concert for Bangladesh."

I remember the Wall Street article well because of the way it started. I was working at the time under a boss who was a stickler for old-fashioned journalism, who demanded that reportorial stories begin in the "inverted pyramid" style. That is, where all the important facts were up front, the first paragraph, if not the sentence, containing the what, who, where and why. This story did **not** begin that way, which opened up whole new vistas for me.

It began with the sentence: "A typhoon came to Bangladesh with precious little to destroy." It captured in that pithy way the essence of things. Notably, the cruelty of the event, devastating a country that was no stranger to devastation. It drove home not just the furiousness of the storm but the cosmic irony of it: It was a divine, or devilish, comedy that made you cry. What a truly, monumentally, hapless country, you thought.

That was the sentence that leaped to my mind last Thursday, with "Philippines" instead of "Bangladesh" in it: "A typhoon lashed at the Philippines with precious little to destroy."

In the scheme of things, that is even more cosmically ironic, or divinely or darkly comic. At the time the Wall Street Journal wrote its story in the early 1970s, the Philippines, if no longer expected to become the next Japanese miracle—no small thanks to Diosdado Macapagal, who wrecked industry with decontrol; and Ferdinand Marcos who wrecked everything else with rapacity—at least stood at par with, if not better than, its Southeast Asian neighbors. Today, thanks to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, it has become the new Bangladesh. An idea Bangladesh itself, which has raised itself up by its bootstraps over the years, might object to violently.

Those were my mortal thoughts last Thursday while the winds swirled around me. I do not mean that in a metaphorical way, I mean that in a completely literal way. I caught the storm last Thursday in quite a dramatic way. I physically *caught* it. I was due at Naia past noon that day as I had a plane to catch to Hawaii. I was due to speak at a gathering of Filipinos in the United States in an event called the 4th Global Filipino Networking Convention 7th NaFFAA Empowerment Conference. My session had to do with media and the killings in the Philippines.

I had no wish to miss it. And so despite the shrill warnings of Pagasa the night before that there was a super storm brewing that day—which bore the almost farcical name "Milenyo"—I drove off to the airport past noon. Since schools and offices were closed that day, I thought it would be a short and sweet, though gray and wet, trip. I thought wrong. Very, very wrong.

By the time we got to Ortigas, the winds started rattling our car, a thing that failed to faze my son whose first instinct was to click away at the world with a camera. Oh, the invulnerability of youth! Traffic crawled to a halt past Ayala, some branches of trees having fallen on the road, the vehicles traversing it snaking this way and that to avoid the obstructions. AM radio began screaming Nature's fury, reporting flash floods, landslides and fallen electrical posts south of Metro Manila. The devastation was plain for me to see. On the airport road, on our opposite lane, the tangle of poles and wires housing a huge billboard had crumpled and fallen on a bus, crushing a section of it. It was a jumble of twisted metal, and I wondered how long it would take to extricate the bus from it.

The winds were howling madly by the time we got to the road going to Naia. The branches of trees littered the road plentifully and the winds shook our car like an angry mob. Once we got to Naia, the distance from the car to the womb of the airport took on the aspect of eternity. Getting off the car was hard enough, opening the door gave the sensation of pushing against heaven. Traversing the covered walk to the gate of the airport was a veritable war. The floor had gotten slippery from the driving rain, and as I struggled past it—I felt like swimming upstream—the winds hurled missiles in my direction. They were in the form of signs, posters and whatever else wasn't fastened to the ground in that place. I cowered, and got hit in the arm by a poster.

In the safety of the airport womb, I worried about my son who was driving home. Globe was down, and I waited in line at the pay phone to call him up in his mobile. I was vastly relieved to know he was OK, his voice suggesting he was pretty oblivious to Providence's improvidence.

My flight was 3:30 p.m., but it was close to 10 at night when we finally took off. As I waited at the airport that late afternoon looking through the glass panels where a haze had collected in the distance limned by a dull gray light, and while soft tones tinkled through the loudspeakers, and passengers padded the floor like zombies inside the airport lounge, I thought:

A typhoon came to the Philippines with precious little to destroy.

* *

Tomorrow, all roads go to Conspiracy Café and Garden in Visayas Avenue in front of Sanville (landmark, Shell Station). The "Stop the Killings" Bar Tour moves on to it. From there, the tour goes weekly over the next couple of months. I'll announce the stops along the way.

A constitutional nightmare

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

I CAN SEE THE SUPREME COURT COMING OUT with a divided opinion on the propriety of revisiting Santiago vs Comelec. After all, women and men of goodwill can disagree about the applicability of legal principles generally employed for issue preclusion such as *res judicata* or *stare decisis*. Justices already disagreed on this in the Pirma case in 1997.

I can also see the possibility of a divided opinion on the correctness of the Santiago vs Comelec decision. I myself am of the view that when the Constitution itself expressly commands Congress to implement a constitutional scheme such as initiative and referendum, the Court cannot be too demanding and strict and persnickety in its evaluation of the judgment of Congress. After all, when there is a textually demonstrable commitment of a task to a political department such as Congress, the Constitution expects that Congress be given elbow room. We have such a situation here: "The Congress shall provide for the implementation of this right."

As to the adequacy of standards given by Congress to the Comelec for the issuance of rules and regulations to implement the system, that too can be approached with liberality. Standards, after all, need not always be spelled out in formulaic language because standards can be gleaned from the totality of the terms of the delegating law.

Having said all that, however, do I also see the Supreme Court affirming the dismantling of the presidential system and the scuttling of Senate and House, and calling them mere amendment and not a revision? Liberality, yes; but absurdity, no!

I am impressed by the words of the young counsel for OneVoice who said: "The framers of the Constitution were wise men and women (in spite of my participation). They saw initiative as a complicated and difficult mode of changing the fundamental law, and therefore limited it to amendments. For how can millions of Filipinos come together to present revisions for a new structure of government without any form of organized debate? They foresaw the nightmare that can result from any attempt to revise a Constitution through an unstructured people's initiative. We are now seeing what the framers foresaw in 1986—a nightmarish draft of a new Constitution."

Calling the Sigaw ng Bayan draft nightmarish may be hyperbolic. But, like other hyperboles, it is not without glaring elements of truth. The draft does contain dark regions where selfish vested interests and obfuscatory formulas and unstated amendments lurk.

Take for instance this proposed line on Article VI: "... all other Sections of Article VI are hereby retained and renumbered ... unless they are inconsistent with the Parliamentary system of government, in which case, they shall be amended to conform with a unicameral parliamentary form of government ...." The people who are to ratify the document are expected to guess which of them are inconsistent with a parliamentary form of government and how they will be amended. Are the authors kidding?

In fact, the counsel for OneVoice submitted to the Court a matrix of what would come out if the formula submitted by Sigaw were to be followed. Read it for yourselves and weep! The counsel described it as "a mismash of incomplete, dangerous, confusing, absurd, inconsistent, and ghost or hidden provisions."

In the midst of all this, it is eyebrow-raising and strange that the solicitor general, the government's chief lawyer, should instead be lawyering for private parties and against the Commission on Elections. His action answers the questions raised by Justice Artemio Panganiban in 1997: "Does the clamor for the proposed change in the Constitution really emanate from the people who signed the petition for initiative? Or is it the beneficiaries of [the proposed change] who are in fact orchestrating such movement to advance their own political interests?"

To find out who the immediate beneficiaries will be, read the proposed Transitory Provisions. The first beneficiary of the change would be the President, who will have the powers of president and prime minister. The other beneficiaries will be the members of Congress and the local elective officials.

Interestingly, the term of senators will last no longer than 2010. There is, however, no indication of the length of the term of members of the House of Representatives except to say that they will stay on until the election of the members of Parliament. But there is no indication of when the elections will be! As for the local elective officials, the election of their successors will take place together with the election of the members of Parliament on a date still to be announced.

Finally, within 45 days from the ratification of the changes being proposed, "the interim Parliament shall convene to propose amendments to, or revisions of, this Constitution ...." In other words, the current proposals will be revised immediately after they are ratified! So, why not just wait for a new Congress?

One might ask, may the Court pass judgment on the wisdom of proposals? Normally, no; but when the proposals border on unintelligibility, it is not just a matter of wisdom but a question of manner. Whatever is proposed, wise or unwise, must be proposed in an intelligible manner. So the Supreme Court said in 1971 in Tolentino vs Comelec. To foist Sigaw's manner on the Filipino people is a scandalous travesty. But this is what Sigaw is asking the Supreme Court justices to bequeath as their legacy.

China's losing battle against corruption

WORLD VIEW

Friedrich Wu

CHINA'S RULERS RARELY WASH THEIR DIRTY linen in public. So the arrest of Politburo member and Shanghai Communist Party boss Chen Liangyu on corruption charges has sent shock waves across the country. Some speculate that the arrest is really part of a power struggle, with President Hu Jingtao demonstrating his authority against a local powerbroker who had thwarted national policy.

Whatever the truth behind Chen's fall, and despite the widening corruption probe of other senior government officials, data and evidence recently released by the government and multilateral institutions suggest that the authorities are fighting a rearguard battle against a rising tide of graft.

Consider the grim statistics recently released by the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP). More than 42,000 government officials on the average were investigated for corruption every year from 2002 to 2005, with more than 30,000 per year facing criminal charges.

These startling figures do not include economic crimes outside the public sector. For example, in 2005 alone, the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) unearthed irregularities involving misused funds of RMB767.1 billion ($93.7 billion). The CBRC uncovered 1,272 criminal cases and disciplined 6,826 bank employees (including 325 senior managers). According to Ye Feng, an SPP director general, "[a]lmost every type of financial institution has seen the emergence of criminal cases involving the solicitation of bribes in return for loans."

Despite the government's intermittent anti-corruption campaigns, progress has been slow. On the contrary, as Ye has candidly acknowledged, the number of corruption cases "has continued to rise." Indeed, international measures of graft show that the authorities may be reaching a stalemate or even retreating in the fight. Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, the most widely used benchmark to gauge businessmen's and experts' beliefs about the extent of corruption in various countries, ranked China 78th out of 158 countries in 2005—not much improvement from 2000.

Indeed, among the World Bank's six "Governance Indicators," China's scores on the "Control of Corruption" index have actually slipped in recent years, from -0.20 in 1998 to -0.40 in 2002 and -0.69 in 2005. In 2005, the World Bank ranked China 142nd out of 204 countries on the "Control of Corruption" index.

While the economic toll of graft cannot be precisely quantified, indirect evidence suggests that the costs are significant. Multinational executives frequently cite China as their favorite investment destination, but many of them also complain about rampant graft. According to the World Bank's "Investment Climate Surveys," 27 percent of nearly 4,000 firms doing business in China in 2002-2003 described corruption as a "major constraint" on their commercial operations, while 55 percent reported that they had paid bribes to government bureaucrats and/or local business partners to get things done.

Likewise, Hu Angang, an economics professor at Beijing's Tsinghua University, has estimated that corruption in 1999-2001 alone caused economic losses worth RMB1,293 billion ($156 billion), or 13.2 percent of GDP. Not surprisingly, the financial services sector suffered the most from corruption, losing RMB547 billion (6.25 percent of GDP). Fraudulent public expenditure cost 2.4 percent of GDP, siphoning off privatization proceeds amounting to almost 2.1 percent of GDP; and smuggling caused losses of more than 1.1 percent of GDP. The Chinese government has neither censored nor refuted Hu's dreadful findings.

The biggest obstacle to fighting graft is the weakness of the judiciary, especially at sub-national levels. Since most government corruption occurs at the county, township and village levels, it usually involves abuses of power by local officials. However, since these petty bureaucrats' power is almost absolute, they also control the channels for addressing grievances. Indeed, among the World Bank's six "Governance Indicators," China's score on the "Rule of Law" index has also slid in recent years, from -0.28 in 1998 to -0.47 in 2005, when China ranked 124th out of 208 countries in this category.

With little recourse to legal means, an increasing number of frustrated victims of graft resort to extralegal measures such as strikes, demonstrations and sit-ins in order to gain media and public attention. Some even carry their fights to the provincial and central authorities, stoking a sharp rise in the incidents of "public order disturbances" nationwide. Whereas the Ministry of Public Security reported only 8,700 such disturbances in 1993, by 2005 the number had jumped ten-fold, to 87,000.

Needless to say, government mishandling of such disturbances, or a decision to repress them with force, would only fuel further social discontent. In fact, the government's success in clamping down on corruption, especially at sub-national levels, will be a litmus test of its legitimacy. To fail would risk igniting a severe political backlash, including a spontaneous escalation of anti-regime activities. *Project Syndicate*

Friedrich Wu is adjunct associate professor at the Institute of Defense & Strategic Studies Nanyang Technological University.

Present and accounted for

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

SHORTLY AFTER THE DECLARATION OF MARtial law, delegates to the Constitutional Convention were offered a reward in exchange for their swift approval of a new constitution. If the delegates approved the Palace draft for a new constitution, they would all become members of a new National Assembly—thanks to a transitory provision appended to the proposed charter. But there was a catch. Only those who voted in favor of the new constitution would be allowed to sit in the new legislature.

On Friday, Oct. 20, 1972, the delegates cast their vote on the matter. It is with an uncanny feeling of déjà vu that I present the following extract from the Con-Con diary of Augusto Ceasar Espiritu. Wrote Espiritu:

"The proceedings were tense; or should I say, shameful?

"There were vigorous speeches against the provision by Justice Barrera, Gary Teves and Leonie Garcia. The whole Convention looked with admiration at these three musketeers who displayed their guts by speaking against a foreordained provision and, in so doing, were taking the risk of incurring the wrath of the political gods.

"There were many more minor skirmishes. The one thing that sticks to my mind was the fact that talking or reasoning with the majority was like talking to a wall. There was absolutely no way for them to accommodate another view. They were determined to ram through whatever they had decided.

"Teroy Laurel made a brilliant defense of his proposed amendments to the draft. We should not limit membership to the National Assembly to the delegates who would opt to serve, as was provided for in the draft, because this was really making the thing a mockery; it was humiliating.

"It would seem from the amount of applause he received and the raising of hands that followed, that the amendment was carried. Indeed, it was announced by Abe Sarmiento, who was then presiding, that the motion was carried.

"But then Fidel Purisima demanded voting by tellers. This changed the situation. Many delegates would not express their true wishes because the walls of the session have many eyes: the dissenters would be watched by Big Brother!

"In the voting by tellers, the result was 128 to 123—or something like that—in favor of retaining the original draft provision which states that members of the 1971 Constitutional Convention who opt to serve in the Interim Assembly by voting affirmatively would be the only ones who would be members of the National Assembly. This is clearly immoral, unfair and unjust—but the proponents have made up their minds.

"Yesterday, I casually told Ramon Encarnacion that perhaps the President would be a little more reasonable than his own lieutenants in the session hall. I overheard Bebet Duavit was willing to give 72 hours to those who were not present during the voting to signify their intention of voting affirmatively. I, therefore, went to Duavit in order to persuade him to lengthen this to, say, two weeks, to enable those who are abroad to come back and give their decision. But Duavit said this was impossible. As it was, he was only trying to get them to agree on this 72 hours' grace, but not as an amendment to the provision. It is going to be some kind of suspension of rules before actual voting on the amendment.

"Later, I rose, anyway, to introduce an amendment to extend the time for those who are absent to be able to vote. Before I could complete my first few sentences, however, the floor leader, Munding Cea, cut me off, and on the same theme, said it would be completely unfair and unjust to preclude our colleagues who are not present ...

"To our great chagrin, Toto de la Cruz, chairman of the Committee on Rules, stood to oppose this.

"How could anyone in conscience oppose something like this? Where is our sense of fairness? But then, a people secure in their numbers and certain of their purpose can too easily forget that democracy requires tolerance!

"Arturo Pacificador would not brook any moderation. Evidently following a 'script', he announced that those absent would be given 72 hours, provided they personally cast their votes in an open session. When some amendments were proposed, such as to allow voting by cablegrams and telegrams or letters, Pacificador, his porcupine hair blasphemously pointing heavenwards, arrogantly gesticulated. 'If this is under question, I better withdraw my motion,' he haughtily trumpeted ....

"So we had to vote ....

"The tension in the air was very heavy during the voting. The roll call took place. There were 14 'No' votes...

Afterwards, the dominant group made a motion to have our vote considered, for all purposes, as the same vote for the second and third readings.

"It seems no quarter is to be given. Like a no-prisoners-taken stance in war. In other words, the majority would take what it can—everything—now; why wait?

"It was indecent, of course. But decency could not wait any longer. Immediate voting was done - and it passed almost unanimously.

"In one stroke, so to speak, we actually voted on second and third readings on the provision in question—and that means then that the provision is finished—passed!"

Espiritu concluded his account of that day's events with the words, "What is done is done. We have failed our people .... We were elected to be members of the Convention, not to be assemblymen. The grant of extraordinary powers and the ratification of all actions of the President do not seem to bother the delegates too much. The fact that ours is now a rubber stamp Convention and that the Assembly would be a rubber stamp Assembly does not really matter. What is ultimately important to them, it would seem, is that we are going to be members of the Assembly—so the next area of concern is what salaries we are going to have."

The irony was that no member of the Con-Con ever got to sit in the interim National Assembly, because Marcos changed the rules before they could do so.

Media, business and democracy

COMMENTARY

Eugenia Duran Apostol

MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT CORPORATE SOCIAL RESponsibility (CSR) goes beyond donations, community outreach programs and charitable work by private business organizations.

The time when private business respected no other interests but its own is long gone. Today, businesses are increasingly becoming more sensitive to issues that affect their host communities. This heightened awareness has provided the impetus for companies to include a social dimension in the business decisions they make.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development defines Corporate Social Responsibility as "the continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large."

Corporate Social Responsibility flourishes when a healthy, transparent relationship between private business and government exists. On the other hand, it withers and dies when this relationship breaks down due to clandestine arrangements premised on expediency and personal gain.

This breakdown is a worldwide plague, and it is known as corruption.

It is hypocritical for companies to project themselves as socially responsible, on one hand, and be party to corrupt practices on the other. Corruption has very ancient roots. Judas and his 30 pieces of silver would probably be one primitive example of corruption.

Today, the complexities of the modern world exert tremendous pressure on the ethical boundaries of corporate success. In the Philippines, studies have identified at least eight types of corruption. These are:

1. tax evasion
2. ghost projects and payrolls
3. evasion of public bidding in the awarding of contracts
4. the practice of passing contracts from one contractor to another for a percentage
5. nepotism and favoritism
6. "*kotong*" or extortion
7. "*tong*" or protection money
8. and the all-time-favorite "*lagay*" or bribery

Yet, the Philippines has a host of legal measures to combat corruption, all the way from our 1987 Constitution to a number of laws like the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Code of Conduct for Public Officials, to a slew of executive orders and presidential decrees. Do you realize that in this country, a public official accused of graft and corruption becomes criminally, civilly and administratively liable simultaneously? However, the lure of easy money can be very hard to resist.

What does media have to say about all this?

In 2001, the INQUIRER was taken to task after a private business group chided Philippine media for "sensationalizing stories involving public offices and for printing negative news detrimental to the country's economic development."

In its editorial reply, the INQUIRER said that media were simply "exposing the cancer of society so that remedies could be found for the illness. It would not do well for society to sweep its dirt under the rug, to hide its ills in the dark instead of exposing them to the cleansing, purifying effects of the open air and sunlight."

Four years later, it was the INQUIRER's turn to challenge business. In its editorial of March 7, 2005, this newspaper said, "Since many of the anti-graft practices are business-propelled, perhaps the businessmen could teach us a thing or two about stopping corruption. Perhaps, they themselves could stop corruption at their doorsteps."

So at this point, may I knock at the doorstep of Mr. Ramon del Rosario and say, "Sir, during the recent Ramon Magsaysay Awards there was one awardee from India who was cited for Emergent Leadership. This man—Arvind Kejriwal—was tax officer of the Indian Revenue Service. He founded a citizen movement called Parivartan—which means "change." Their aim was to stop the practice of paying bribes to their tax department. In two years, Parivartan was able to generate public pressure so intense that it forced the Indian Revenue Service to clean its ranks and become subservient to the citizens instead of the other way around.

Another Magsaysay awardee from Korea—Park Won-soon—successfully led a campaign to make the judiciary "fair in the application of the law" and to enact legislation banning corrupt practices in government and protecting whistle-blowers. They constantly pressured regulatory agencies to investigate fraud and waste in government contracts and championed the rights of minority shareholders in Korea's domineering business conglomerates.

Is it not time for us to be encouraged by this? Media will surely support you, because media's most important role reflects a core value of Corporate Social Responsibility—the creation of a culture of transparency.

Eugenia Duran Apostol is the board chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. She herself was among the seven winners of the Magsaysay Awards for 2006—Kejriwal (Emergent Leadership) and Park (Public Service) also among them. Hers was for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts.

THEY SAID

Collateral cover-up

"I value human life, the very essence of what we protect as soldiers. I bleed for lives lost as collateral damage in armed conflicts. Yet, I cannot be waylaid by the use of human rights to cover up armed attempts to destroy and grab power from the State."

—Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, speaking in Fort Bonifacio on his final day in the military service

Intelligence franchise

"I will hold off on that because I know that this man is not physically fit. He is filled with delusions of grandeur. He is filled with a franchise of intelligence."

—Sen. Richard Gordon, on Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's motion to "throw" Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio back to his detention cell in the Senate for his behavior during a hearing

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Wanted: another Milenyo to blow away real problem

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

TYPHOON MILENYO TORE DOWN what our government could not. It removed billboards but not without killing people. For several months, there have been complaints about these billboards—indecent visuals, traffic hazards, accident threats and public nuisance. Hundreds of columns and letters written in the INQUIRER and other newspapers have pleaded for the removal of billboards.

Was it not apparent to our government that those billboards posed hazards to our commuters? But, the obvious our government ignored because of greed.

And now, after all the damage, our President wants to issue tougher laws in regulating the display of billboards. Will doing so undo the damage? No. Will it prevent future damage? Probably, but for how long?

The problem is not the billboards, but our government. As long as our government is corrupt and immoral, our country will always be on the brink of peril and destruction.

As in the issues haunting the Piatco-Naia 3 terminal, the June 2006 nursing exam, Jocelyn Bolante, the 2004 elections and the killing of journalists, our government has shown lack of insight and foresight. Can we have a "Milenyo" to mangle, destroy and topple our inept government?

—VESNA-LEA FERRER, vesnalea@hotmail.com

LTFRB hotline 0921-448777 useless

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I CAN READILY REport abusive cab drivers. Every time I arrive in Manila at the PAL terminal, I go up to the departure area to get a taxi because those based at the arrival ground charge a lot.

Unfortunately, even at the departure area, almost every taxi demands P200 for a ride to Taft Avenue. The amount is almost double the meter fare. Or the cab drivers would pretend that they forgot to activate the taxi meter and only then would they tell how much they're charging for the trip, so most often passengers would have no choice but to agree.

Last Sept. 22, I took this "Ralph Taxi" and, as usual, had to argue with the taxi driver. Later, when I dialed the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) hotline number printed on the rear side of public utility vehicles, I found out that it was useless. I don't know if it is intentional on the part of the LTFRB that cell phone No. 0921-448777 does not work!

I called 117 as well, but the person on the other end of the line just referred me to 187 which is not accessible by mobile phone.

I suggest that the Department of Transportation and Communications, LTFRB or whatever government agency that has something to do with disciplining abusive cab drivers, print only their hotline numbers that work and also print them inside the cab so that the passengers can more readily refer to them.

I think there used to be this "Oplan: Suplado." I don't know if it's still on. All I'm sure of is, everything looks like nothing came out of it.

—GUADALUPE PAR, gi_par@yahoo.com

Faith and love never compatible with violence

I APPRECIATE THAT THE INQUIRER PRINTed in full the Sept. 12 speech of Pope Benedict XVI at the University of Regensburg in Germany. (PDI, 9/24/06) There was really a "misinterpretation" or "miscontextualization" of the Byzantine emperor's quote which the Pope used in his address.

The Holy Father, following his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, is open to dialogue with different cultures and religions and he has deep respect for their beliefs. But the point is, faith is rational. Because "God has created reason, and at the same time creates out of Love," as then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said in a public discussion on the Christian roots of Europe at the Lateran University in 2004.

And God cannot contradict Himself. Love can never be compatible with violence. That is why spreading faith with violence is simply unreasonable.

The cardinal also said, "In a secular culture, reason becomes functional and technical when it loses its moral faculties and without moral capacity, freedom becomes a caricature of itself .... If 'being able to do' becomes 'doing,' humanity destroys itself and loses its dignity."

—GLECY G. GAMBOA, glecygg@yahoo.com

Why pork barrel for a 'spare tire'?

I HAVE READ THAT VICE PRESIDENT NOLI de Castro has been allocated pork barrel funds amounting to P30 million.

Why should the Vice President get a share of the pork barrel? Under the Constitution, he has no function other than wait for the President to die, or to retire or to be ousted. He is not a congressman who has a constituency.

The late Mayor Arsenio Lacson of Manila once called a vice president a "spare tire." Well, Vice President De Castro should wait until he hits the road before collecting his share of pork barrel.

—ALFONSO BATAC CALACDAN, Lot 3 Blk. 2 Corinthian St., Ampid San Mateo, Rizal

₱99++

Cebu - Clark v.v.
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Cebu - Bacolod v.v.
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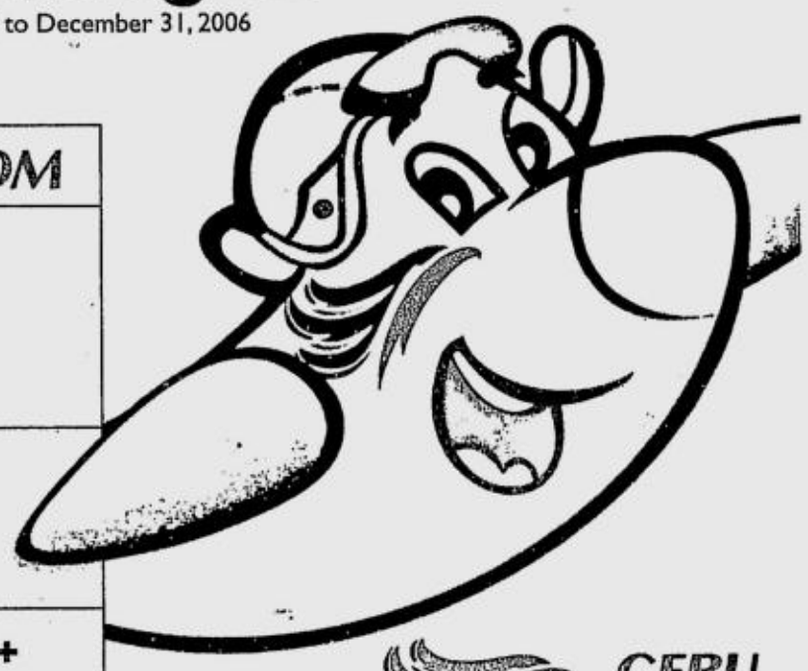

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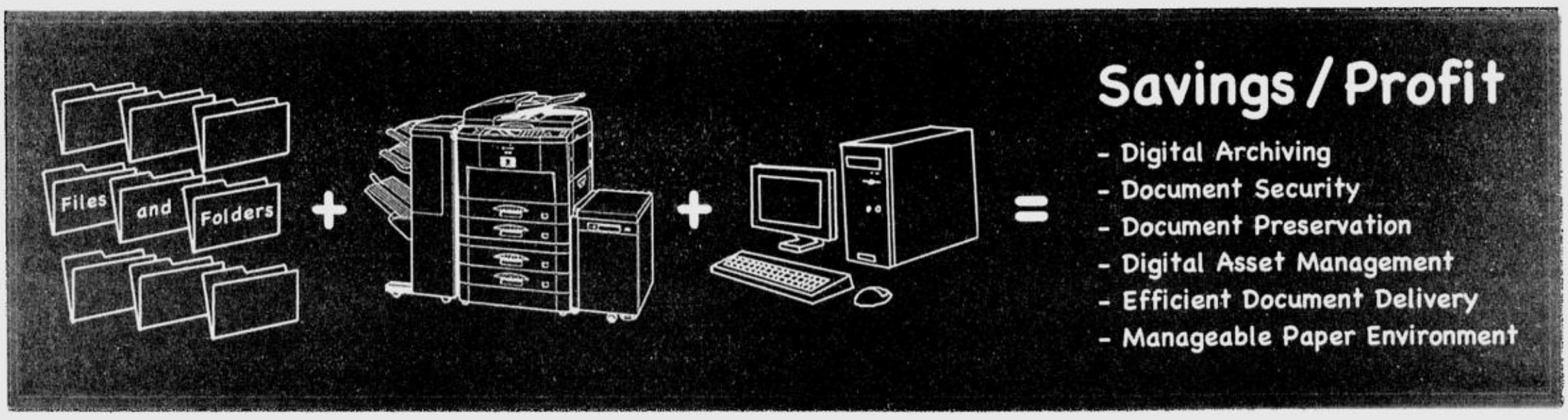

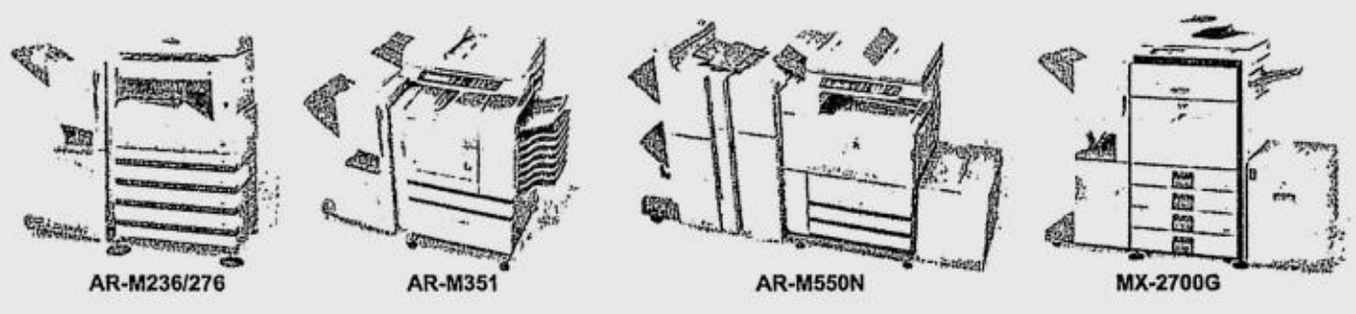

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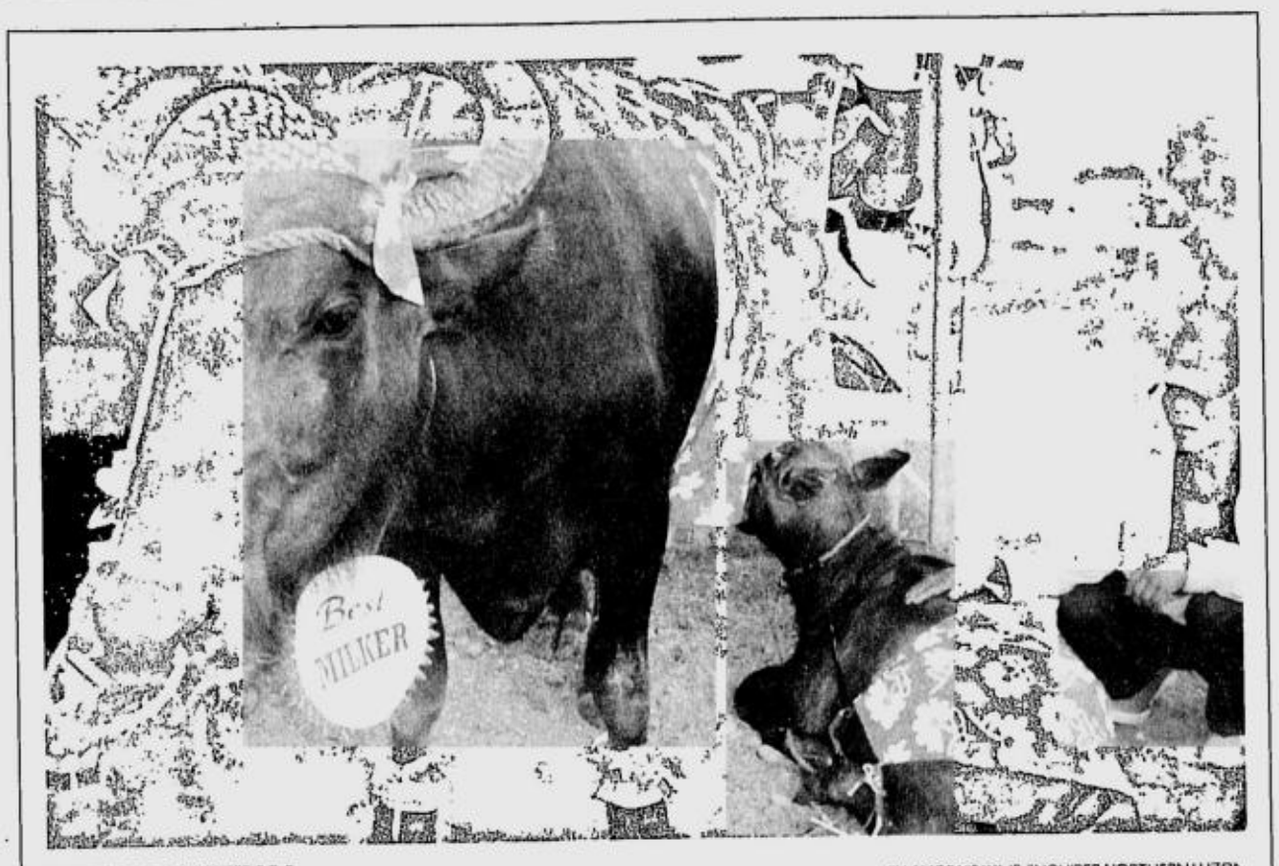

NUANG FESTIVAL VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Despite mechanization, carabaos remain the farmers' reliable friend in tilling the land. That is why, carabaos like these are honored during the recent Nuang (Carabao) Festival in San Agustin, Isabela.

No new proposals for peace talks

DAVAO CITY—GOVERNMENT NEGOTIAtors have failed to present fresh proposals to revive the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a rebel negotiator said.

MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal said the government was supposed to present a new proposal to resolve their issue on territory but they asked for more time as they will consult with political, economic, religious and civic leaders over the rebel group's demand to widen the present Autonomous region without plebiscite.

"They have [made a commitment] to us but it seems they did not come up with a proposal as of yesterday (Saturday)," Iqbal told the INQUIRER.

Negotiations on territory, which documents on the peace talks describe as issues of ancestral domain, bogged down in Kuala Lumpur.

The ancestral domains will be placed under the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE), the probable name of the governing body of the new Moro homeland. It is still not clear how much autonomy the BJE will have.

The government offered 613 villages scattered all over Mindanao to an existing Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that covers the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-tawi and Marawi City. But the MILF wants an increase in the number of villages to be placed under BJE.

Some Mindanao lawmakers earlier vowed to block a move to expand the present ARMM government without plebiscite.

"That's internal to the government. Our position is very clear, we don't ask them to do it. However, if they will, they should expedite any agreement," Iqbal said.

"We are not asking the government to change the constitution. But they can undertake any move that would hasten the delivery of their commitment to us," he added.

Talks between government and MILF started in January 1997 but without a third party international facilitator. It was only on March 24, 2001, after the all-out war against the MILF declared by jailed former President Joseph Estrada, that Malaysia, at the behest of the Philippine government, started to facilitate the talks.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Speed up probe of jailed 'punks,' judge asks DOJ

BAGUIO CITY—A JUDGE IN BENGUET URGED JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez last week to speed up the reinvestigation of nine youths who have been jailed for seven months after being implicated in a raid on a military detachment in Mankayan town.

Judge Agapito Laoagan Jr. of the Benguet Regional Trial Court asked Gonzalez to assign a prosecutor "with no preconception" about the case and who could determine whether the government has probable cause to pursue its case against them.

Gonzalez responded last week by assigning Baguio Assistant Prosecutor Octavio Banta to handle the investigation.

The detained youths, originally called "Punks 11," earned media attention because of their appearances. Some wore tattoos while other members of the group styled their hair into a Mohawk.

The two minors who belonged to the group were released earlier.

The group's members—Anderson Alonzo, 18, Jethro Villagracia, 21, Rundren Lao, 24, Ron Pandino, 19, Darwin Alagar, 20, Alduz Christian Mañosa, 18, Jefferson de la Rosa, 20, Neil Russel Balajadia, 25, and Arvie Nuñez, 21—said their "punk rock" lifestyle was the reason they were being prosecuted.

Beverly Longid, vice chair of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, said the case had caught the interest of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who had been interacting with the CHRA to work out the release of three of their members who came from Davao.

Laoagan was prepared to release the youths in May after he ruled that police procedures used to arrest them violated their constitutional rights.

But he also granted Benguet prosecutors enough time to re-file the case, prompting civil rights lawyers here to ask for a new investigation, Longid said.

"The government filed a new case in June. The judge acted on our request when he wrote Gonzalez last week because we wanted to speed up the investigation, considering that the justice department had been sitting on this case and our clients had been languishing for months in jail," she said.

The youths referred to themselves as a backpacking group called "Punks R Us," and they included a 17-year-old boy from Pasig City and a 16-year-old girl from Marikina City, who were allegedly in the Cordillera for an adventure trek.

The two minors were released because of the juvenile justice law that protects minors from criminal prosecution.

Benguet policemen and soldiers arrested the group while they were on their way to Mt. Province in February.

Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales, Cordillera police director, said the Benguet police had evidence to support the claim that the youths had participated in the Feb. 14 raid conducted by the New People's Army in Mankayan.

A soldier and two government militiamen were killed in that raid. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Business Can be simple

Guinsaugon landslide survivors get help thru lending facility

by Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—OVER SEVEN MONTHS after the mudslide tragedy in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, a business group has set up a lending facility that would enable its survivors to start anew.

The Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry is making available a P165,000-fund to the local government of San Juan in Southern Leyte, to enable Guinsaugon survivors to earn their living.

On Sept. 22, Dechos, representing the LCCI and San Juan Mayor Virgilio Montera signed a memorandum of agreement for the implementation of the project.

Jaime Dechos, LCCI executive director, said the San Juan local government would use the fund to encourage the target beneficiaries to start their own hollow block making business.

The project beneficiaries include 39 students who survived the mudslide tragedy in Barangay Guinsaugon.

"We want these victims to start a new life by providing them with something from which they can generate an income," Dechos told the INQUIRER.

The San Juan local government takes care of the beneficiaries, who are housed in a dormitory of the Southern Leyte State College-San Juan campus.

San Juan is a fifth class municipality with over 13,500 people living in 18 barangays and is 90 km away from the provincial capitol of Maasin City. It is four km away from St. Bernard, where Barangay Guinsaugon, the site of the massive mudslide that killed about 1,000 people, is located.

Under the memorandum of agreement entered by the LCCI with the San Juan local government, the loan will be used to procure equipment needed for hollow block making, Dechos said.

The San Juan municipal government will buy the hollow blocks produced by the beneficiaries for use in different infrastructure projects.

He said the beneficiaries have to form a cooperative to avail of the lending facility.

Dechos said they have to repay their individual loans taken out of the P165,000 funding facility established by the LCCI with the San Juan government, through the cooperative, in three years without interest.

"If they want to continue their hollow block making enterprise, the LCCI will be more than willing to extend another loan with them without asking any interest," Dechos said.

Hollow block making can start once the San Juan government acquires the equipment.

The San Juan government has given the students a space at the back of the town's gymnasium as the venue for their production facility.

Interviewed through his mobile phone, Montera said the funding extended by the LCCI would help the 39 beneficiaries, who are in high school and college levels.

He said the local government would help the cooperative market its hollow blocks to private individuals and businesses.

A piece of hollow block made by students costs P7 which is lower by P2 when compared to those made by commercial hollow block makers.

About 1,000 people, 200 of them elementary students, died when a massive mudslide and boulders from Mt. Can-abag hit their village Guinsaugon.

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3 power co-op execs suspended for overcharging

ILAGAN, Isabela—OFFICIALS OF the Isabela II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Iselco 2) suspended three department heads implicated in an unauthorized power rate increase from March to May this year.

Mariano Dayag Jr., Iselco 2 general manager, suspended executive assistant Enrique de Leon and finance manager Luzviminda Panangui for 60 days each, and institutional services division manager Ernesto Cubangbang for 30 days. The suspensions took effect on Sept. 25.

Dayag said the cooperatives' officials investigated the "arbitrary increase" and found that the officials knew the unallowable power rate increase.

The excess amount collected from consumers in the first and second districts of Isabela reached P31 million and these were charged to the incremental currency exchange rate adjustment (Icera) and franchise host to benefit cost (FHBC).

Rodolfo Albano Jr., chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission, said in such cases, the local cooperative must refund the amount to the consumers.

He said Joel Bigornia, Iselco 2 board chair, had told him that there had been an erratic cash flow and their obligations had been delayed.

"Then came the overcharges. [Our reports indicated that] some of the amount allegedly went into the pockets of some officials," Albano told the INQUIRER.

Panangui said she would not contest the suspension order.

Asked to explain how the overcharging happened, Panangui said: "It is a very long story but we will abide [by the suspension order]."

The Iselco 2 officials' suspension came after the cooperative received complaints from consumers about poor service, inconsistent policy on power disconnections and its refusal to heed the call of the Isabela provincial board to remove surcharges for delayed payments. *Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

TWO ELDER Muslim clerics attend the turnover ceremony of the reactivated Southern Philippines Development Authority on Saturday. DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Muslim dev't body reactivated

DAVAO CITY—THE REACTIVATION OF THE Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) officially took effect Saturday with the assumption into office of its officers led by its administrator and chief executive officer Zamzamin Ampatuan and chair of the board Yusop Jikiri.

The SPDA has an initial operating capital of over P10 million for the remaining months of the year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo reminded her new appointees to keep the bureaucracy "lean and mean" and move to involve the active participation of the Moro National Liberation Front in this corporate endeavor, said Undersecretary Virgilio Leyretana of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Mindanao.

SPDA, created through Presidential Decree 1703 by President Ferdinand Marcos some 21 years ago, replaced the Commission on National Integration, the agency that attended to the development, particularly the educational needs of poor but qualified Muslim Filipinos in Mindanao, said Leyretana, who turned over to Ampatuan the stewardship and responsibilities of the office in a simple ceremony held at Barangay Catalunan Pequeño here.

"We will make do [with] what we have and will find ways to generate corporate investments from foreign donor countries, particularly from the Arab World," said Ampatuan, who called for a "united MNLF" to successfully carry out the government's commitment leading to the full implementation of the 1996 GRP-MNLF final peace agreement.

Many former MNLF rebels have expressed disgust over the government's seeming mishandling of the 10-year old accord as some socioeconomic provisions have yet to be fully realized. Official representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference which helped broker the government-MNLF talks have also expressed the same misgivings.

Alleged mismanagement by previous SPDA administrators prompted the agency's deactivation through Ms Arroyo's EO 149 on Nov. 28, 2002.

Leyretana, who was also head of the Mindanao Peace and Development Fund that looked after the existing assets and liabilities of the deactivated SPDA, stressed that the turnover was a "clean slate," for the agency to operate anew.

The President, according to Ampatuan, assured him of a P220-million budget next year, which the latter wanted pegged at a billion pesos "to be able to effectively render justice to the complaining MNLF members who had been polarized following the incarceration of their founding leader Nur Misuari for rebellion charges.

Jikiri, MNLF Bangsamoro Armed Forces chief, said the resuscitated SPDA "would focus on the fundamental needs of the poor, destitute and less fortunate residents of Mindanao." *Charlie C. Señase and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

Japan gives computers to 12 S. Leyte schools

MAASIN CITY—TWELVE PUBLIC high schools with the biggest student populations in the province have received P4.5 million worth of computer sets and software donated by Japan in support of the government's computerization program.

"With these computers, the government hopes Southern Leyte could benefit from it and be globally competitive," Michael Nuñez, trade provincial director, told the school administrators during the turnover ceremony on Thursday.

The donation, which is part of a multibillion-peso Japanese grant that started in 2001, was coursed through the Department of Trade and Industry. Nuñez said each school received a computer package worth P375,000.

"It (the donation) comprises complete computer sets and original software, including the training cost for teachers in charge of the school's computerization program," he said.

The beneficiaries are the Guadalupe National High School, San Rafael National High School and Malapoc National High School, all in Maasin; Villa Jacinta National Vocational High School in Macrohon; Sta. Cruz National High School in Malitbog.

The Pacu National High School and San Juan National High School, both in Bontoc; Lungsodaan National High School in Padre Burgos; Pintuyan National Vocational High School; San Ricardo National High School in San Ricardo; San Isidro National High School in Tomas Oppus; and the Silago National High School in Silago. *Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*

Barbecue stalls foul up air quality reading

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SINCE JANUARY, AIR quality in the downtown area had been fair or within the standard levels set by the Environmental Management Bureau. But don't ask the agency about its reading in March.

A host of stalls selling barbecued pork and chicken intestines, and other street food decided to stay near the air sampling station on lower Session Road in March. This resulted in an unusually high reading of air quality due to smoke from the grills.

In a forum on Thursday, Susan Nisperos Nool, planning officer of the EMB Cordillera, said the bureau had asked the city government to buy a telemetric monitoring system (TMS) so such glitches would be avoided and other significant indicators could be measured.

A proposal to procure the P10-million TMS had already been submitted to the city council two weeks ago, Nool said.

At present, the EMB is using a TSP (total suspended particulates) monitor, which looks like a power meter, to get air quality readings at a sampling station in the central business district.

A TMS records PM10 (particulate matters 10 micrograms in size), PM5, nitrous oxide, sulfuric oxide and carbon monoxide. These are pollutants that affect public health but were previously unmeasured, Nool said.

She said residents had become conscious of air pollution since the city was included in the list of most polluted cities in the country in 2002. Ambient air quality deteriorated then, almost reaching 400 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm), exceeding the standard 230, she said.

Nool said the range had so far been recorded at 81-230 ug/Ncm.

The EMB, she said, did not consider the ambient air quality reading in March due to the glitch.

BAGUIO AIR QUALITY INDEX 2006

Month	Readings (ug/Ncm)
January	189
February	208
March	n.a.
April	166
May	168
June	132
July	152
Standard	230

SOURCE EMB

She said readings during the rainy season were low because pollutants were absorbed by the rains.

Vehicle emission contributes up to 70 percent to air pollution here. Edna Tabanda, project area coordinator of the Energy and Clean Air Project of the US Agency for International Development, said her agency's main concern was the increasing volume of motorized vehicles in the city.

Tabanda organized schools to be part of the Energy and Clean Air Network for Academic Institutions so they could include clean air advocacy in their National Service Training Program course.

This would include teaching students about air pollution and alternative energy sources as well as tapping their help in monitoring and reporting smoke belchers, Tabanda said.

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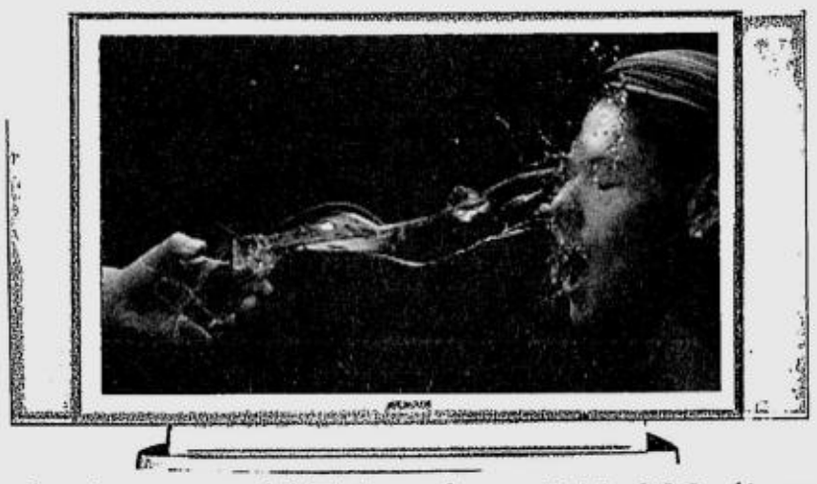

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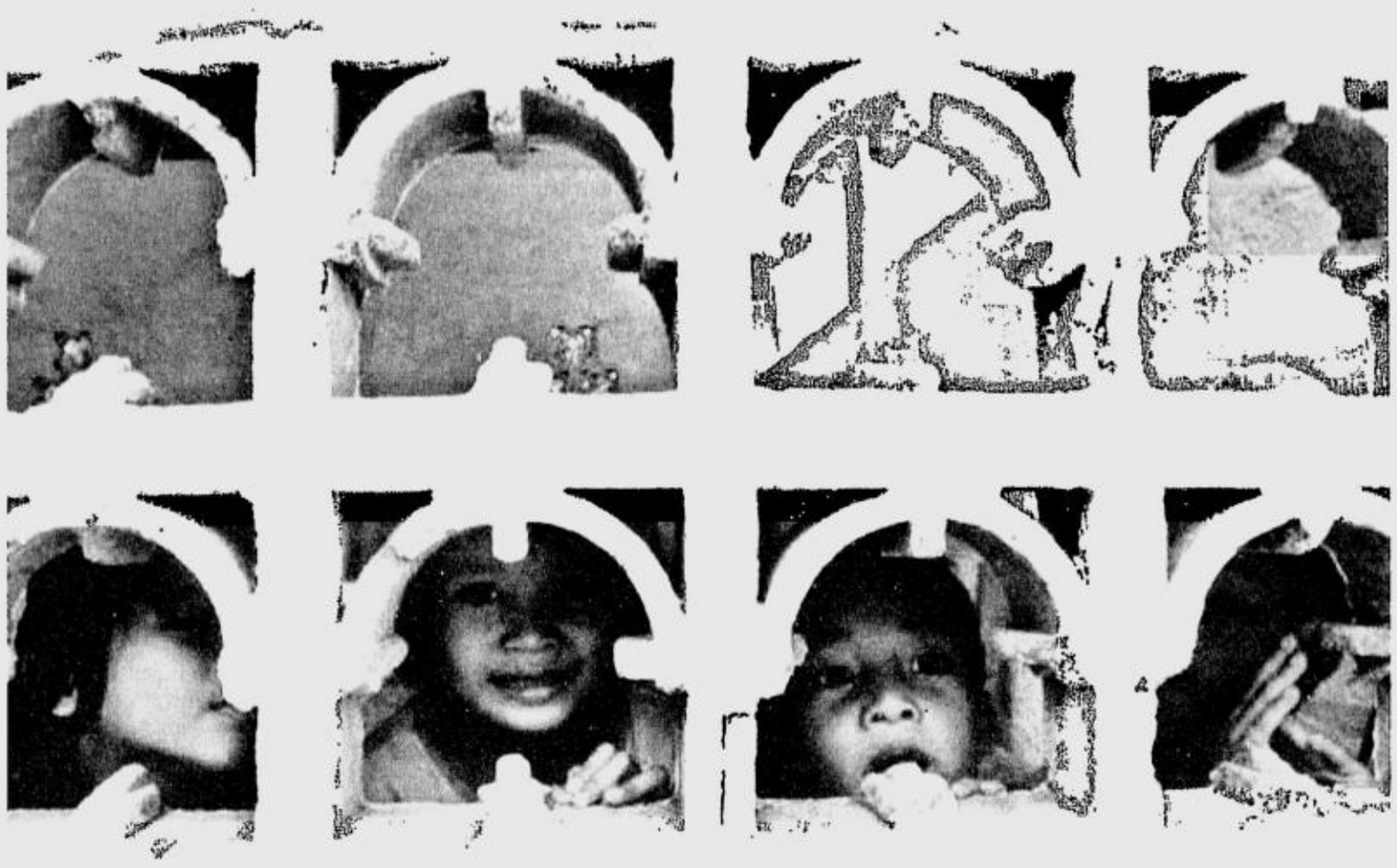
Guimaras child evacuees bear heat, discomfort

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas



DESPITE their miserable state, schoolchildren find time to clown around by the windows of the Aglipay chapel that has served as their temporary classroom since Aug. 22, 11 days after Petron-chartered MT Solar I spilled 1.3 million of its 2.19 million liters of bunker fuel oil in southern Guimaras.

HAZEL P VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—It might be a sunny day, but for 98 pupils of the Paaralan ng Buhay ng Tando, laughter and playfulness masked their discomfort as they tried to make the best out of makeshift classrooms since the overpowering smell of rotten eggs drove them out of their school by the sea.

School since Aug. 22 for Day Care and Grades 1 and 2 pupils has been the chapel of the Catholic Church, the Aglipay chapel for Grades 5 and 6, and a tarpaulin tent for Grades 3 and 4.

The heat was almost unbearable and some 15 minutes of staying in the tent, though under the shade of coconut trees, made one perspire on top of a discomfiting feeling brought about by topsy-turvy chairs and noisy children.

"It is so hot here. I tell the kids, let us bear this. Just keep on fanning yourselves. We can't afford not to hold classes," said Priscila Galvan, teacher in-charge of the multigrade school.

She and two of the school's three teachers were sitting outside the tent during recess, fanning themselves as their wards noisily played outside.

The only portable blackboard has only a few scribbles.

Galvan said the teachers had no choice but to retreat to the interior of Barangay Tando, 11 days after the Petron-chartered MT Solar I sank off southern Guimaras with a load of 2.19 million liters of bunker fuel oil.

Some of the spilled 1.3 million liters washed on the white sand shores of Tando and other beaches of Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and San Lorenzo—three towns of Guimaras hardest-hit by the country's worst oil spill.

On the days that they stayed on their campus 5-8 meters from the beach, Galvan said six pupils in Grades 5 and 6 complained of headaches and tightening of chest.

Grade 1 pupil Jeilyn Albaña and Grade 5 and 6 teacher Gemma Garde vomited.

Stench

Galvan said classes were not moved to the interior of the village right away because the children had to finish taking exams for the first grading period.

The schoolchildren and teachers were given medicines, said Galvan, but the worse had yet to come.

When the children transferred, the workers hired by Petron constructed a tent made of tarpaulin sewn together. The tent leaked during rainy days, but this was nothing compared to the stench of what Galvan said was a drum of chemical dispersants nearby.

"Petron's chemical dispersants were smelly. People won't die from the bunker fuel oil, but they will die from the smell of the dispersants. The drum was open and the stench was a pain in the chest," said Galvan.

The teacher added that after their complaints sometime in the last week of August, Petron did not use the chemical dispersants and had these taken away.

"We are now immune to the stench," said Galvan.

Petron's health, safety and environment manager Carlos Tan has repeatedly denied that the corporation ever used dispersants in the shorelines of spill-affected villages.

He also told the INQUIRER that it was the first time he heard of the state of the evacuated schoolchildren and that he would have workers fix the tent.

"The ones who provide the relocation sites are the local governments, not us," said Tan.

Galvan was also incensed with the sloppy work of Petron-hired workers who "painted" with cement on the second week of September—the school's breakwater made of rocks and corals that were smeared with oil.

Even a coconut tree by the breakwater with its broad roots awash in oil was "painted" with cement, to the great consternation of Galvan who could not explain the logic of it all.

"The clean-up workers told me it was Petron who ordered them to cover the breakwater with cement but Petron's supervisors denied it when we confronted them. They said they will work on the breakwater again but I could still see some oil because of the thin film of cement," said Galvan.

Tan said Petron was not the only group doing clean-up operations in Tando. He mentioned "private individuals" and volunteer groups from Iloilo who took it upon themselves to help.

Off limits

"The workers we get are residents and hence, we expect them to do well because after all, this is their place and they would not resort to shortcuts," said Tan.

Galvan said she and the teachers wished all classes could be held in one big comfortable tent with electric fans, but as to who would pay for the electricity was something that even barangay chair Olivia Evangelista could not answer.

In Tando, with 204 households and a population of more than a thousand, nine families or about 45 people evacuated to the interior of the village around the plaza on Sept. 13 since they lived within 100 meters of the shoreline ordered off limits by the government.

The evacuation came after a preliminary health and environmental assessment conducted by the Department of Health in collaboration with the University of the Philippines National Poison Management and Control Center dated Aug. 28, showed toxic levels of hydrogen sulfide in the air of villages Cabalagnan, La Paz, and Tando in Nueva Valencia.

The high levels of hydrogen sulfide resulted to the sickness of 25 adults and four children in these villages, said the report.

The top five clinical complaints in the three villages, according to the report, were dizziness (66 percent), headache (44 percent), body malaise (34 percent), numbness (31 percent) and cough (24 percent).

As it is now, life for the pupils of the Paaralan ng Buhay ng Tando remains bleak.

Dagupan wants to be 'Queen City of North' again

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—PANGASINAN'S premier city is no longer the Queen City of the North and the economic, government and educational center in the Ilocos, due to emergence of other equally progressive growth centers in the region.

The city government has also gotten the flak after it landed among one of the local government units with the lowest net income in 2005, as reported by the Commission on Audit.

Mayor Benjamin Lim Jr. disclosed this during the consultative workshop on the Public Governance System (PGS) on Sept. 22.

"It is because Dagupan is a convergence point, a veritable melting pot," he said.

Dagupan came from the Pangasinan word "pandaragupan" which means meeting place.

"This diversity in culture and belief may have taken its toll on the community's sense of purpose. Instead of being united and competing with other growth centers in the region, we have grown fiercely and inwardly competitive (and have) developed the tendency to outdo each other," Lim said.

Dagupan was recently initiated into the group of 20 dream cities in the country which have adopted the PGS of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia.

The PGS is a program on good governance and responsible citizenship, with the local officials working with the residents to attain common visions and goals for their cities.

Robert Kuan, former owner of the Chow King and chair of board of trustees of the St. Luke's Medical Center, said: "You can't consider yourself a queen city with the [lack of infrastructures], the chaos, the traffic, the crisscrossing of tricycles."

Kuan, who spoke on strategic and entrepreneurial approach on management and development of enterprises during the consultative workshop, told the government and private sector leaders "not to think of [your] self interest but of the best interest of the city."

City Administrator Rafael Baraan challenged the leaders of the various sectors to share in the development of the city.

"It is not the monopoly, nor the sole responsibility, of the city government [but] a collective effort, a community affair," he said.

"If we don't plan well, if we don't move fast, if we don't put our acts together, we might become a ghost city inhabited only by the remnants, and the vague memory, of its glorious past."

He noted that while the residents compete with each other, growth centers have sprouted around.

At present, Dagupan is facing stiff competition from its neighboring cities like Urdaneta, San Carlos and Alaminos.

"People from other towns in Pangasinan no longer feel the need to shop or to avail themselves of services in Dagupan. They can get these same goods and services right where they are, or in other cities nearby," Baraan said.

He also cited the city's size as another limiting factor to its growth.

Dagupan is only 37 sq km, easily dwarfed by Alaminos (164 sq km), San Carlos (169 sq km) and Urdaneta (100 sq km).

"Larger cities are allocated bigger Internal Revenue Allotment share proportionate to their land area, despite lesser population density. This gives the larger cities more financial resources at their disposal to provide basic services and to pursue more programs and projects," Baraan said.

He said among the resources and facilities that remain untapped are the three universities and private schools, public and private hospitals and medical facilities, hotels and restaurants, better shopping centers, and beach.

To attain the dream to recapture its throne as the Northern Luzon's center of trade of commerce, the city has prepared a "road map" or a 10-point agenda that Lim said the city forged during strategic planning sessions in 2001 and 2004.

This includes improved traffic, better garbage disposal, poverty alleviation anchored on more business opportunities, more jobs, effective flood control, more homes for the poor and accessible health care and social services.

The city government also plans to enhance revenue generation to qualify as a first class city, complete and operate the *bangus* processing plant, make the city the center for academic excellence, consolidate and coordinate medical services and facilities of all hospitals to serve all of Northern Luzon, make the city as the regional government center, and redevelop Tondaligan Park as a world-class tourist destination.

Town files criminal complaint vs 3 for 'butanding' slay

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Sangay, Camariners Sur

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT of Sangay, Camarines Sur is not letting the killing of the "butanding" (whale shark) on Sept. 7 go unpunished.

On Sept. 22, the town filed a criminal complaint against three persons for causing the death of a female whale shark, an endangered marine species protected by law.

Joel Abetria, owner of the fishing gear, his brother Joy, leader of the fishing team, and Lauriano Encinas, the suspected attacker, were charged with violating Section 97 of Republic Act No. 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code. The law penalizes persons capturing, killing or trading protected and endangered marine species.

Councilor Marjun San Felipe said the local government was forced to include the Abetrias because they refused to give statements regarding the incident.

San Felipe was the first local official to arrive at the beach of the village of Sto. Niño where the female "butanding," 30-40 years old, died from a hack wound inflicted at the midsection of its 23-foot body.

He said the owner of the fishing gear and the team leader of the fishing trip were directly responsible for causing the capture of the "butanding."

The complaint, which was submitted to Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Zhelia Monserate-Manrique, included the testimony of four witnesses.

Municipal fisheries officer Hilaria L. Cornelio narrated in her testimony how her excitement turned into disgust at what happened during that day.

She said a concerned resident and member of the Bantay Dagat, who was deputized as a fish warden, sent her text messages about a whale shark caught by fishermen along the shore of Sto. Niño.

"I immediately went there and I was so amazed when I saw a real whale shark for the first time in my entire life. But, I was shocked and disgusted when I realized it was suffering from hack wounds," she stated.

The whale shark, trapped in the net of a beach seine or *sinsoro*, a fishing gear, had wounds in different parts of the body as it bled continuously, she said.

She testified that Encinas was the person pinpointed to have hacked the butanding from information she obtained from several witnesses whom she interviewed.

The suspected attacker, she added, fled before police arrived at the scene.

Rosario L. Celestial, 30, another witness, was among the residents who helped pull the net of the beach seine to the shores with the hope of earning extra income.

"Suddenly, I saw a very big tail of a fish near the shoreline. I was so shocked but very happy when a few minutes later, I saw its half body because never in my entire life had I seen such a very large fish," she narrated in her testimony.

She added that she understood that the whale shark was tied in order to protect it. when suddenly, "Encinas, while holding a bolo, stabbed the whale shark in its back, causing it to suffer a very large wound."

Tilasporo C. Buena, 43, another witness, testified that he was made to understand that the whale shark was tied to protect it when Encinas hacked it.

Tristan C. Paylado, leader of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' stranding team, declared the whale shark dead at 2:20 p.m. After two hours of close observation, it ceased to breathe, he added.

Paylado reported that the whale shark suffered four sets of wounds with the last one, measuring 71 cm long, 23 cm deep, becoming "the fatal wound" that caused a large amount of blood loss.

ROUNDUP

Cotabato barangay councilor held

COTABATO CITY—A village official here was arrested on Friday while receiving marked money from a victim of cell phone thieves. City police spokesperson Senior Insp. Samson Obatay said barangay councilor Mokamad Pasawilan of Tamontaka Uno was receiving P700 from a certain Mona Lisa in exchange for the latter's Nokia mobile phone snatched by two young men when police arrested him. The suspects were said to be grandsons of Pasawilan. Obatay said the victim sought police assistance when Pasawilan allegedly demanded payment in exchange for the return of her phone. Obatay said they immediately staged an entrapment operation at around 1 p.m. that resulted in the arrest of Pasawilan. Pasawilan denied asking for money from the girl. "I was just helping recover her missing cell phone and I have been set up for doing a good thing," he said. Obatay said Pasawilan had been charged with extortion.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

HIV/AIDS reporting training

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists of the Philippines yesterday held the sixth of its seven training workshops on HIV/AIDS Reporting, according to a news release. Thirty-two journalists from different Mindanao provinces participated in the training held at the Ponce Suites, Bajada, Davao City. The training aims to improve the knowledge and skills of journalists when covering HIV/AIDS and related issues in recognition of the important role played by media in dealing with the issue. The training is part of the International Federation of Journalists' program to improve HIV/AIDS reporting in several countries. The seventh and last training workshop will be held in Zamboanga City in November.

Workers kill trader, son

BUSTOS, Bulacan—A businesswoman and her son were stabbed and killed by their three workers in their house in Barangay Bonga Mayor here on Friday night. Police said one of the suspects was killed when he tried to stab a policeman pursuing them. Chief Insp. Sabino Vengco, police chief here, said Tiaoha Lim, 35, and her son Ben Lim Lu, 17, died while being taken to the Sto. Niño Hospital here. Lim, reportedly a native of China, was the co-owner of Sam Lim Construction and Hardware in the same village. Vengco said the suspects—Rodolfo Molina, Julio Aruada and Ricky Eduarte—barged into the house of the victims at about 6 p.m. and started stabbing them. Lu tried to fight off the suspects but he was overpowered and stabbed repeatedly in the body. The attack created a commotion that attracted the victims' neighbors, who, in turn, reported the incident to the police. Policemen searched the victims' compound and found Molina hiding inside a piggery. Follow-up operations led to the arrest of Eduarte and the killing of Aruada. Vengco said policemen were forced to shoot Aruada when he tried to stab the arresting officers. Jimmy Lu, Lim's husband, said they fired Molina from his job at the family-run hardware after he committed various irregularities.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

25 Vietnamese detained in Agusan

BUTUAN CITY—Twenty-five Vietnamese manning a foreign cargo vessel were detained here for illegally unloading rice off Carmen town in Agusan del Norte on Sept. 23. Josefa Villaseñor, acting Customs collector here, said that on Sept. 22, Vietnamese cargo vessel MV Fuan Hiethiehong arrived in Surigao City and unloaded 67,337 bags of rice for the National Food Authority. She said that the vessel later sailed for Carmen. While in the high seas, the crew of the ship unloaded 660 bags of rice to waiting motorized boats owned by unidentified residents. Villaseñor said the vessel had no authority to unload outside of the Surigao port. "Charges of rice smuggling were being readied against them," she told the INQUIRER. Villaseñor said authorities have also impounded the ship and imposed tight security on the Nasipit port in Agusan del Norte.

Franklin M. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao

Fire razes environmental office

BUTUAN CITY—A fire of still unknown origin razed the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur on Sept. 24. Bayugan fire chief Senior Fire Officer Avelino Cortez said investigation showed that the fire started at around 11 p.m. at the office of Cenro Jaime Acebu. Arnulfo Simine, spokesperson of the antigraft watchdog Bantay Bayan-Butuan, said the fire was a cause for concern because it occurred when environment officials were being investigated for alleged involvement in the illegal logging trade in the province. Acebu said Simine's allegations were baseless. He urged those insinuating that the incident was deliberate to wait for the official result of the investigation being conducted by fire authorities. Cortez said his personnel immediately responded to the fire call but failed to retrieve any document. Damage was put at P3 million.

Franklin M. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao

Group to clean up toxic dumps in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—WITH THE DISCOVERY of three dumps of hazardous factory waste in Candelaria and Sariaya towns, the multisectoral alliance Quezon Laban sa Basura (QLB) has started to map out plans to "detoxify" the areas.

Lawyer Asis Perez, executive director of Tanggol Kalikasan (TK), a nationwide environmentalist group, revealed that more toxic dumps could be hidden in neighboring towns.

"From information we have received, there could be more similar toxic dumps. We will continue our search," Perez said.

He said the QLB officials had volunteered to lead multisectoral efforts for a massive cleanup at the perimeters of the dumps.

"[The] QLB has started the ball rolling [to generate] ... huge funds to be needed for the massive cleanup," Perez said.

The QLB, headed by businessman Ado Escudero, once successfully led the opposition to the plan of the Metro Manila Development Authority to dump trash in Quezon province more than three years ago.

Quoting former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, Perez said the discovery of the dumps of hazardous factory wastes in Quezon was the first in the country.

"I was informed by former Secretary Gozun that during her time, what they found were drums of toxic waste inside a warehouse which were about to be dumped elsewhere, not unlike here where we actually located the dump," Perez said.

"This will be a test case," Perez added.

On Friday, personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the TK found two more toxic dumps in the mountain village of Concepcion in Sariaya at the foot of Mount Banahaw.

The sites are 2 km from each other. The first—inside a coconut plantation in Sitio Liberty—has four pits measuring 3 meters by 3 meters and 4 meters deep.

The second site has more covered pits. "It had been dumped with greater volume of hazardous waste," Perez said.

Some of the drum containers spread all over the place were seen spilling liquid chemicals toward a nearby creek, said TK staff Jay Lim.

"The water that flows in the creek reaches several farmlands below the village," Lim said.

The group that inspected the dumps included Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala, Environment Regional Director Antonio Principe, Environment Management Bureau official Bobby Sheen, TK staff members, and members of the National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force.

Concepcion village chair Benjie Magboo denied knowledge that what had been dumped in his area was toxic factory waste.

"We were told that the chemicals were used factory oil and are harmless to humans and the environment," Magboo said over the phone.

He pointed to a villager, identified as Sonny Ilagan, as the one allegedly responsible for the dumping.

"He started to haul drums into our place two months ago. He drives his own truck in the hauling," Magboo said.

On Tuesday, the DENR-TK team discovered the first dump in Mangilag Norte in the nearby town of Candelaria .

Residents of Mangilag Norte have also identified Ilagan as the one allegedly responsible for the dumping. The suspect is now being sought for questioning by authorities.

With the heavy rains brought by Typhoon "Milenyo," the DENR and TK officials have raised serious concern over the possible spread of toxic chemical wastes that have been dumped in the areas. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DA execs say Cordillera farms less dependent on pesticides

BAGUIO CITY—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture officials in the Cordillera said local farmers had reduced the use of pesticides in their farms due to the continuous practice of integrated pest management (IPM) to combat vegetable pests.

Dr. Jesus Aspuria, chief of the Bureau of Plant and Industry in the region, cited field studies showing that some farmers used to spray their cabbage plots with pesticides 16 times in three months until the vegetables were ready for harvest.

But after the IPM was introduced, the farmers had reduced spraying to thrice in three months, he said.

Aspuria said many farmers now practiced biological control measures to stop pests like the diamondback moth found in vegetable farms. They are using an insect called diadegma that destroy the eggs of diamondback moth, he said.

The farmers were also employing crop rotation, intercropping, irrigation and burst spray to stop pests.

Crop rotation and intercropping are techniques where farmers follow cycles in planting vegetables in seasons when pests are not present in farmlands. Irrigation and burst spray rely on the flow of water to stop pests.

Because of these practices, agriculture officials said locally produced vegetables had more chances of penetrating the international market, where demand for organic vegetables is high.

Patricio Ananayo, agribusiness and marketing division chief of the DA Cordillera, said his office had been receiving reports that many farmers were switching to the IPM because they found it safer, environment-friendly and cost-effective.

He said farmers who practice IPM in the vegetable-producing towns of Mt. Province, Ifugao and Benguet had reduced production costs by half.

Before the IPM was introduced in the region in the 1990s, farmers would complain that they were spending more to buy chemicals and fertilizers to improve their harvest, he said. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Czech lass is Miss World; texters fail RP bet

By Armin Adina

DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S CLAIM AS THE TEXTING CAPITAL OF THE world, Miss Philippines Anna Maris Igpit failed to get enough text votes to make it to the semifinals of the 2006 Miss World pageant in Warsaw, Poland.

Blonde, sports-loving Tatana Kucharova won the Miss World title for the Czech Republic for the first time ever in a glitzy finale to the beauty pageant watched by an estimated two billion viewers in more than 200 countries.

Making it to the two semifinal slots for the Asia-Pacific region were 18-year-old Thuy Mai Phuong from Vietnam while Australia's Sabrina Houssami and India's Natasha Suri tied for the other slot.

This development broke the Philippines' four-year consecutive stint in the semis. In 2002, Katherine Manalo made it to the Top 20 when the pageant first introduced public voting. She advanced to the Top 10 after another round with the judges.

Mafae Yunon and Karla Bautista landed in the Top 5 in 2003 and 2004, respectively. Last year, Carlene Aguilar got one of the two slots for the Asia-Pacific region.

No Filipino woman has yet won the Miss World pageant. Evangeline Pascual came closest when she finished second to Miss USA Marjorie Wallace in 1973. Actress Ruffa Gutierrez placed third two decades later.

Saturday's two-hour event (early Sunday morning, Manila time) capped a month of activities in Poland where the contestants traveled widely, and performed traditional Miss World staples like singing and dancing.

MISS World 2006 Tatana Kucharova acknowledges the cheers of the audience at the Palace of Culture in Warsaw. AFP

Voting by text, Internet

Most of the two-billion television viewers were expected to vote by sending mobile telephone text messages and via the Internet beginning in early September.

For the global vote, the total text messages and online entries were not added up. Instead, points were given to the 10 girls who got the most votes in each country. After all the points from the participating countries were tallied, the candidate from each geographic region (Asia-Pacific, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, the Caribbean, the Americas and Africa) with the most points advanced to the semifinals.

Eighteen-year-old Kucharova finished ahead of five other finalists—Romania's Ioana Valentina, Australia's Houssami, Angola's Stiviandra Oliveira, Brazil's Jane Sousa Borges Oliveira and Jamaica's Sara Lawrens.

The new Miss World, who wants to pursue a career as a model, is a keen sportswoman who plays tennis and volleyball, rides and skates—the last a sport highly popular in her country.

An animal lover, she keeps cats, guinea pigs and a tortoise. She describes herself as a "natural optimist." A total of 400 beauty queens from different countries and regions of the world competed for the title in the Polish capital.

The 104 contenders in the grand finale posed in bathing suits and evening dress before 2,000 cheering spectators during the gala celebration at Warsaw's stately Palace of Culture that was "gifted" to Poland by Stalin in the 1950s.

Now on its 56th year, Miss World claims to be the globe's largest beauty contest, edging out rival organization Miss Universe. *With an AFP report*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
Baguio City 2600

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BID ACTIVITIES

Oct. 04-05, 2006	-	Submission of Eligibility Documents with Letter Of Intent (LOI) and Application for eligibility (Secure application form from the BAC Secretariat)
Oct. 09, 2006	-	Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Documents to Pre-qualified Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00
Oct. 12, 2006	-	Dropping & Opening of BIDS

For other inquiries, interested parties may see the BAC secretariat or call the following Telephone Nos. (074) 3042459, (074) 3043175 and (074)442-8238

The Department of Transportation and Communications – Cordillera Administrative Region reserves the right to accept, reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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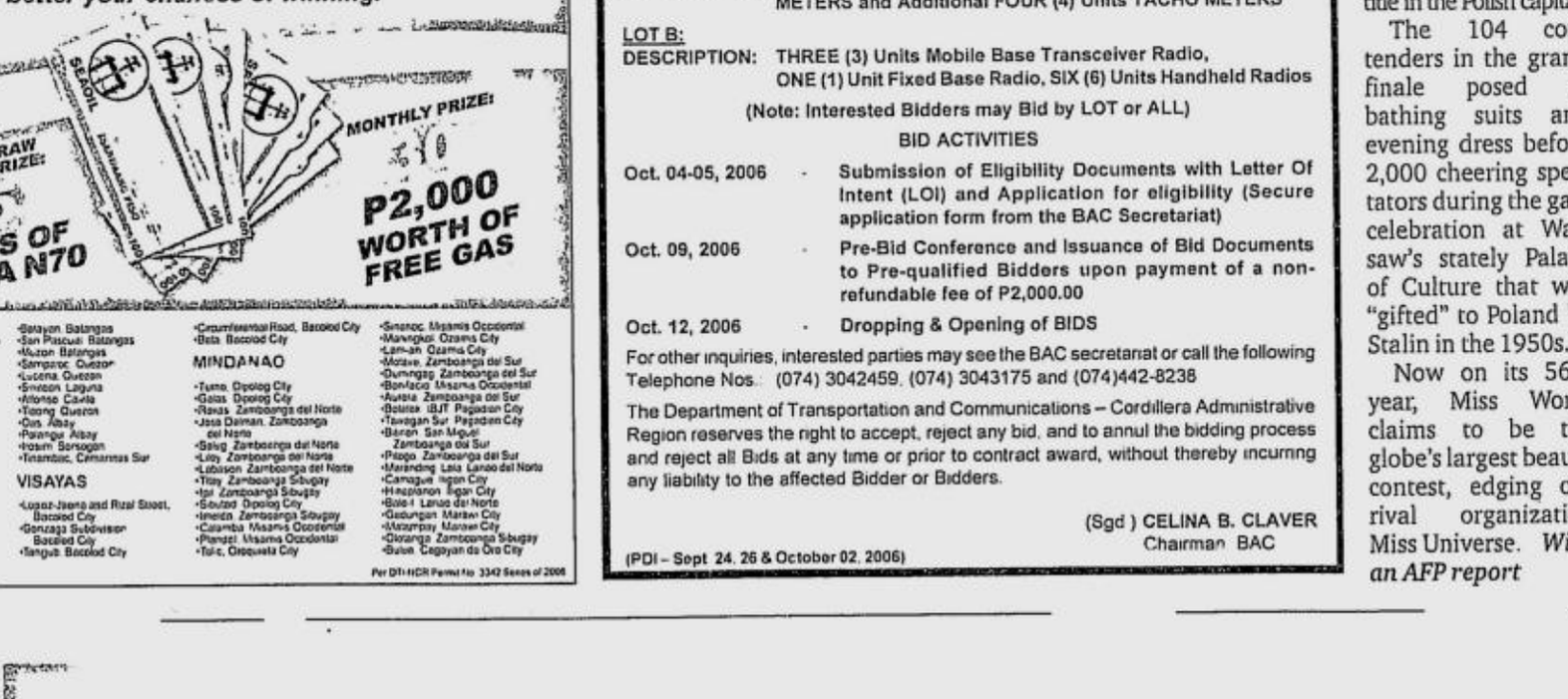

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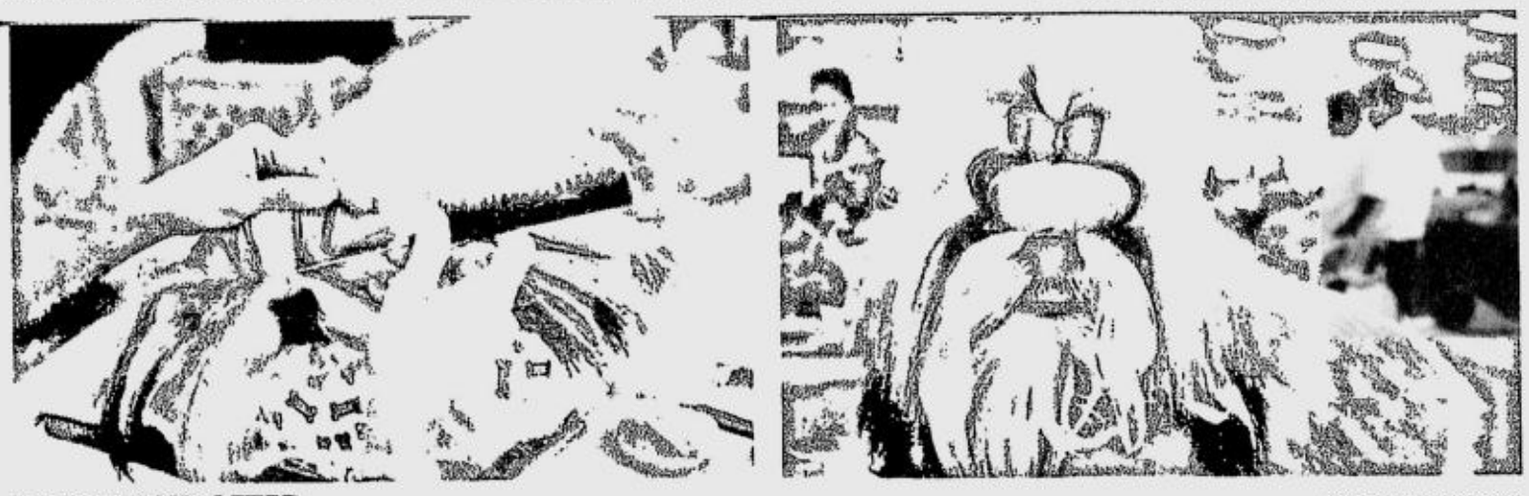
6 dead men discovered in Caloocan



BEFORE AND AFTER
Ricardo, a 3-year-old Shih Tzu, waits patiently as his owner fixes him up for a dog show, one of the activities in yesterday's celebration of World Animal Day. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

By DJ Yap

THE BODIES OF SIX MEN—APPARENTLY THE victims of a massacre—were discovered lined up on a highway in Caloocan City yesterday.

Only four of the six victims found beside Main Road of Phase 3, Nova Romania Subdivision in Barangay 168, have so far been identified, police said.

They were Ramon Villanueva, Arthur Cadorna, Jefferson Agipanan and Jun Azuero, according to Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District director.

The motive for the multiple killings has not been established, the police official said. He added that investigators were still looking into the victims' backgrounds to find clues.

At 7:20 a.m., an unidentified caller alerted Caloocan police to the bodies, which upon cursory inspection bore gunshot wounds, Bataoil said.

He sent a team of investigators led by Supt. Napoleon Cuaton to the crime scene, followed by Crime Laboratory operatives who examined the evidence.

Recovered were 26 pieces of 5.56 and five 9 mm shells, and three bladed weapons, said the NPD chief who supervised the probe.

Initial investigation showed that the victims were seen in the area, getting off from an AUV (Asian Utility Vehicle), at around 2 a.m. A witness then heard someone say, "*Nagpahuli kasi kayo* (It's because you let yourselves get caught)," followed by successive gunshots.

"We condemn this killing of six persons. If these persons are in conflict with anyone or any group, this is not the way it should be resolved. Due process of the law must prevail," Bataoil said in a statement.

Barangay captain Larry del Rosario and his watchmen at Barangay 168, Diparo, North Caloocan, assisted investigators and helped control the crowd that had gathered at the crime scene.

The bodies were brought to Matias Funeral Homes at 10:45 a.m. Relatives of some of the victims arrived shortly to identify the bodies, which were being prepared for autopsy.

A RELATIVE of one of the six dead men weeps after she identifies the victim. RAFFY LERMA

DID YOU KNOW

CAMP Crame in Quezon City, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police, was named after Brig. Gen. Rafael Crame, the first Filipino to lead the country's police force, then known as the Philippine Constabulary (PC).

Crame was appointed chief of the PC—which had been headed by Americans for 16 years—in 1917. While holding the position, he became the first Filipino general to receive the Medal of Valor, the highest honor an officer could receive. But he declined the award, saying, "I only did my duty."

Crame retained the post until his death in 1927 at the age of 64. His remains were buried at La Loma Cemetery in Quezon City, but were exhumed in 2003 and transferred to the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City. Crame was born on Oct. 2, 1863 in Rizal province.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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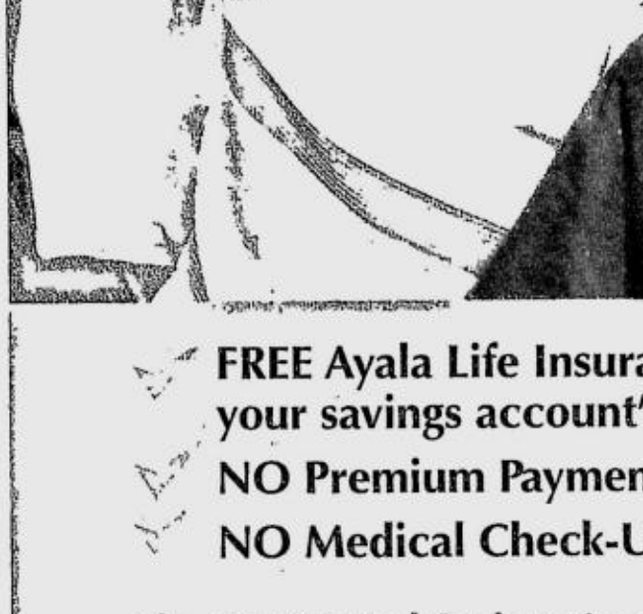

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Right man at the right place and time

Hero of bloody May 2003 siege finally gets his just reward

By Candy Palenzuela-Dalizon
Contributor

HIS STORY COULD HAVE BEEN lifted from the pages of a movie script.

When some 150 heavily-armed members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Abu Sayyaf attacked the municipality of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte on May 4, 2003, PO1 Jamaron S. Sandag—a member of the elite Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police (PNP)—was detained at the town police station on a murder charge.

After firing rocket-propelled grenades at the mayor's office and strafing the town public market, the rebels moved toward the Siocon police station.

Two MILF rebels, posing as complainants, went inside the station and asked to speak to the officer in charge. As they were talking, more rebels barged in and shot the investigator and another policeman.

The gunshots brought out other policemen and a firefight started.

Inside his cell, Sandag heard the gunfire and watched as a wounded policeman crawled near him.

"I saw that he was wounded and I called to him," Sandag said to the INQUIRER in Filipino. "I asked him to let me out of my cell so that I could help him fight."

The policeman agreed. As soon as he was out of his cell, the SAF man grabbed an M16 rifle and emptied the magazine at MILF guerrillas inside the police station, killing two of them.

Sandag said he ran out of the station to fire at the other rebels acting as lookouts.

"I was carrying one M16 rifle and I grabbed another rifle. I had with me at least 32 fully-loaded magazines," he added.

His commando training with the SAF, according to Sandag, proved to be an advantage in dealing with the rebel raiders.

"I was trained as a commando. I knew that I could kill a number of them, given my training. I was moving from one place to another while firing at them and they couldn't see me," he said.

As the firefight went on, Sandag was grazed in the head by a bullet. Despite his injury, he stood his ground and continued fighting with the other policemen until reinforcements came.

Although the attack on Siocon town left at least 25 people dead, including six policemen and 10 unidentified MILF guerrillas, the casualty could have been higher had the rebels succeeded in overrunning the police station.

THE INSIGNIA of the Special Action Force reads: Tagaligtas (Rescuer)—PO1 Jamaron Sandag lived up to his unit's mission when he helped thwart an attack on a police station. PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

First SAF awardee

For his bravery, Sandag was awarded the Medal of Valor, the first SAF to be awarded the PNP's highest decoration for bravery.

To this day, Sandag—who is now stationed at the SAF headquarters in Camp Gen. Ricardo Papa in Bicutan, Taguig—still marvels at how he came to be the right man, in the right place, at the right time.

"It was probably fate and Divine Providence," he said.

The 30-year-old Sandag, "Jam" to his friends and neighbors in Signal Village, Taguig, grew up in Sibuco town, a two-hour pump boat ride away from Siocon.

A member of the Sama tribe in Zamboanga Norte, he grew up idolizing his father, who commanded a Civilian Home Defense Force unit in the area.

'Follow in my footsteps'

"When I was growing up, he would tell me, 'I hope you'll follow in my footsteps so that someone will always be here to protect our family,'" Sandag recalled.

When he was 13 years old, his father killed a Moro National Liberation Front commander during one of their anti-insurgency operations. To avenge his death, the dead man's relatives filed murder charges against Sandag in 1990 at the Siocon municipal trial court.

"I was only 13 years old at that time and knew nothing about the case. All I know is that the case was filed against me by the family of the victim upon the instigation of our rival family," he said.

Determined

Still, Sandag was determined not to let a murder rap get in the way of his father's dream. After graduating with a degree in criminology from Zambo AE Colleges in Zamboanga City in 1998, he decided to go to Metro Manila.

To survive, he did odd jobs, working for six months as a security guard in Greenhills, before landing a job as a janitor at the SAF headquarters.

When he passed the criminology board in 2002, he promptly joined the SAF.

Sandag said he was still celebrating his entry into the police service when the warrant for his arrest came out on February 2003.

Bleak months

For nearly four months, he was detained at the Siocon police station. "I almost lost hope but then, the complainant in the murder case filed an affidavit of desistance and the charge against me was dropped."

Sandag was just waiting for the judge to issue the order for his release when the rebels attacked on May 4, triggering a firefight which lasted from 1 a.m. to noon the following day.

He could have stayed inside his cell and let the other policemen tough it out but Sandag said the thought never even entered his mind.

Sworn duty

"It's my duty as a policeman to defend other people. It would have bothered me if I had done nothing while others were killed or wounded," he added.

His superior, Chief Supt. Felizardo M. Serapio Jr., SAF commander, is all praises for Sandag. "He makes us all proud to wear a SAF uniform."

In July, Sandag was awarded the Medalya ng Kagitingan or PNP Medal of Valor "for his conspicuous courage and intrepidity at the risk of life and above and beyond the call of duty."

The citation which went with the award read: "Although then a detainee at the said police station, PO1 Sandag selflessly fought with resolve the tough aggressors, using the M16 rifle of a wounded co-policeman in defending the said station. With his absolute determination and remarkable intrepidity, PO1 Sandag not only bewildered and confused the enemy but also disrupted their plans, specifically the burning of Siocon Municipal Police Station. By bravely standing his ground and refusing to give up until the arrival of reinforcements, PO1 Sandag and other defenders ably repulsed the enemy attack and saved Siocon from falling into the hands of the attackers."

Extra pay

With the medal came an additional monthly pay of P20,000 and educational scholarships for his two girls, Korina and Janella.

Sandag said the extra money means a lot to him and his wife, Nina, a nurse. "At least now, my wife can stop working and just take care of our kids," he added.

More than the medal and the financial reward, however, he said he was hopeful that what he did will prove to the public that there are still many policemen who remain dedicated to their job, at the point of risking their lives.

SANDAG'S hobby is caring for his prized oversized roosters, each weighing five kilos. The roosters' names are Thailander, Dela Hoya and Kris Aquino.

Teenager picks up pieces of her life after distressful poisoning incident

By DJ Yap

MONTHS AFTER SHE NEARLY died from drinking water laced with mercurous nitrate by a classmate at the Philippine Science High School (PSHS), Gelyn is the first to note the irony in her choice of a college course.

The 17-year-old is a chemical engineering freshman at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

"I felt chemistry was relevant in my life, more than ever. I'm not at home with biology, and physics isn't exactly my thing either," she told the INQUIRER.

Even the prospect of handling the substance that almost killed her does not faze Gelyn: "We're taught how to handle chemicals. It's not like I'm going to drink it any time. So it's perfectly fine with me."

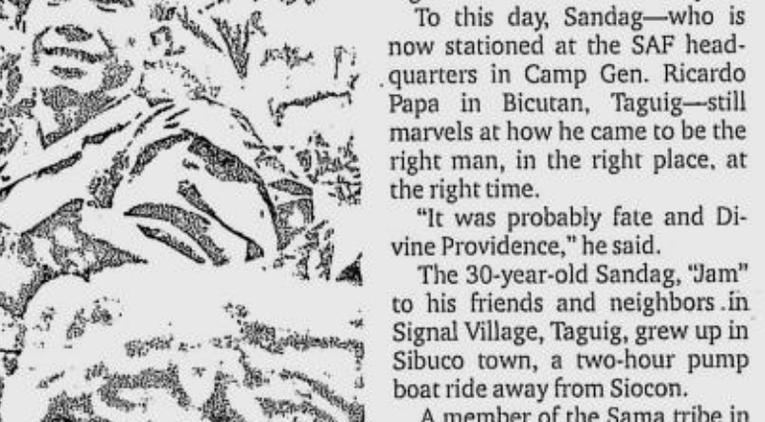
Severe internal injuries

Last Valentine's Day, Gelyn, or Marie Angelynne Fabro, then a senior at PSHS, suffered severe internal injuries after she drank from a classmate's water jug that had been laced with mercurous nitrate, a poisonous substance.

A classmate allegedly poured a vial of the chemical into the jug, while another watched, according to witnesses. Moments after drinking from the water container, Gelyn suddenly experienced extreme stomach pain and began vomiting.

"My stomach hurt so much that I couldn't stand. That night, and two or three days after, it always hurt. I couldn't sleep, I couldn't talk. For a week after, I lost my voice," she recalled.

As a result of the poisoning incident, Gelyn had to undergo seven dialysis sessions at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, during which she needed 11 blood transfusions.



GELYN Fabro is now a freshman taking up chemical engineering at UP Diliman after her recovery from mercury poisoning. JAMES BARR/CONTRIBUTOR

The incident sparked a controversy within the PSHS, reputed to be the best state-run secondary school in the country. It also led to the expulsion of the two students involved, and the filing of criminal charges against the culprits.

In late August, the Quezon City prosecutor's office raffled off the frustrated murder case to Branch 102, under Judge Ma. Lourdes Giron, according to Gelyn's lawyer Eugenio Villareal.

The arraignment for the accused, who were both 16 in February, has been scheduled on Oct. 4, the lawyer said. The two accused have denied the charges.

Originally, only one student was charged, but in the course of the preliminary investigation, one of the principal witnesses was found to have been directly involved in the incident.

Finger-pointing

In their respective counter-affidavits, the two students pointed to each other as the one liable.

"We welcome the filing of information in the court because it finally gives us the chance to present our evidence, and at the same time, affords the accused the opportunity to defend themselves," Villareal said.

During the interview, the first she has granted since the incident, Gelyn told the INQUIRER that she was no longer in any pain, and was strong enough to go to school.

Under observation

But doctors are still monitoring her in case there is still a significant amount of mercury in her bloodstream, she said.

"According to the toxicologist, symptoms (of increased mercury levels) may possibly manifest, but they're not sure when. It can happen after one or two years, or even after 30 years," her father Moises said.

The poison could attack the liver, the kidneys or other internal organs, he added.

Asked what could have been the motive for the poisoning, Gelyn said: "I don't know ... If you're talking to him (the principal accused), in a normal situation, you'd never think he'd be able to do something like that."

She noted that the one who poured the liquid into the jug was "among the top students in our batch."

"He would have been among the graduates with the highest honors, if he had graduated," she said, adding that neither she nor the owner of the water jug was at the top of the class.

Gelyn said she has forgiven the two accused, but still wants to pursue the charges: "I've forgiven them, but I don't want them to get away with it."

"If they get away with it, they might become more daring, like, 'oh, I got away with it the first time, (so) I'll do it again.' I don't want others to be hurt or affected because of that," she added.

'We want justice'

Moises said: "Anger eventually fades, even if you meet in the courtroom ... We only want justice. You did something, so you should get what you deserve. We've forgiven them, but we want justice."

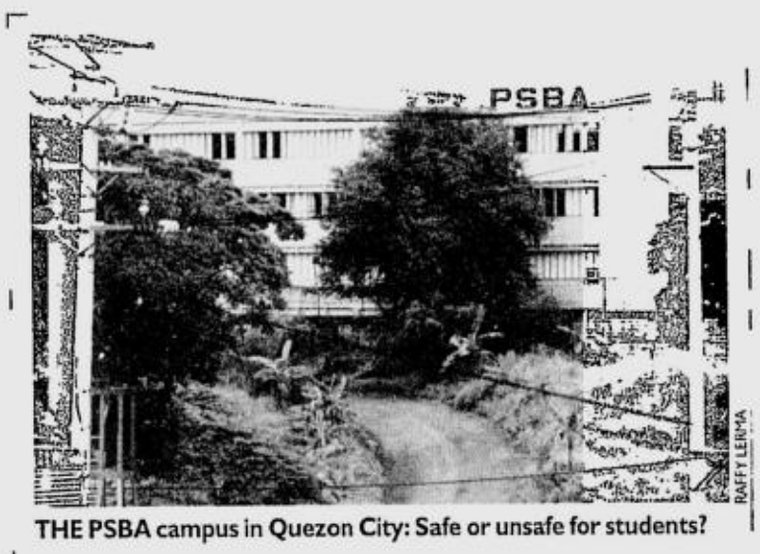
There was one positive thing about the whole experience though, Gelyn said.

"I'm very thankful (for the outpouring of support from the PSHS community). They never abandoned me. Everything we needed, they helped us with, the parents, students and alumni. It was overwhelming," she said.

Moises recalled how some of the alumni, without telling the family, went directly to the blood bank to donate blood for his daughter: "When we needed, say, two bags, we'd just be surprised to know that the blood was already there."

When she graduates, Gelyn plans to work "for five years" in the Philippines, then, if possible, pursue further studies abroad.

"I'll stay here first, and if I get the chance, I'll probably study abroad. But I'll return eventually. If there's anybody who should not forget to pay back the country, it would be me," she said.



THE PSBA campus in Quezon City: Safe or unsafe for students?

CHEd to probe alleged PSBA diggings

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education will conduct its own investigation of the alleged diggings carried out by treasure hunters on the Philippine School of Business Administration campus at Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City.

"Despite pronouncements made by the Quezon City government that they did not find any signs of diggings done in the said school, the Commission on Higher Education is bent on investigating the matter," CHEd Deputy Executive Director Julito Vitriolo said.

Issue of public safety

"CHEd is not precluded from conducting any fact-finding investigation or inquiry into the matter due to its delicate nature since it would involve public safety," the official added.

Vitriolo said reports of diggings on the PSBA campus "were things which could not be ignored anymore" because of the possibility of an accident "that could possibly result in the loss of lives."

The CHEd also asked PSBA president Benjamin Paulino to provide it with a "report on the action taken by the PSBA administration on the said investigation."

Ready to investigate

Vitriolo said that the CHEd probe would be conducted by the legal department.

"The matter is already with the proper group within the CHEd, the legal department, for the conduct of the fact-finding investigation. The voluminous documents and affidavits pertaining to the matter have already been turned over to them," he said.

Possible closure

Should PSBA officials be found guilty of neglect, the school could not only be shut down but its permit could also be canceled, Vitriolo warned.

There had been reports that treasure hunters dug up portions of the PSBA campus in search of the fabled Yamashita treasure from 1998 to 2004. These have subsequently led to concerns about the stability of the school grounds in case of an earthquake.

No sign of life where Brazil airliner crashed

BRASILIA, BRAZIL—MILITARY SEARchers parachuted down on Saturday to the wreckage of a Brazilian passenger plane that crashed a day earlier in remote Amazon jungle with 155 people on board.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said there was no sign of survivors.

The brand-new Boeing 737-800 operated by Brazilian low-cost carrier Gol probably plunged into the ground nose first after it clipped a smaller executive jet, the head of Brazil's airport authority Infraero said.

If the death toll is confirmed, it will be the worst aviation accident in Brazil's history.

Brazil's military suspended the search and rescue mission as dusk set in the thick forested area and will resume it Sunday morning.

"At night in the Amazon you can't see beyond a foot in front of you," said Brigadier Antonio Gomes Leite Filho of Brazil's air force at a news conference.

Earlier in the day, the two soldiers who parachuted into the area were cutting down dense jungle to make a helicopter landing area and authorities had recruited Indian trackers to find a path to the remote jungle crash site for relief teams.

"All rational logic shows there is a high probability that a collision occurred," Infraero head Brigadier Jose Carlos Pereira told reporters.

The small size of the wreckage area indicated that the chances of survivors among the 149 passengers and six crew members on board were slim.

Gol officials said there were 113 men and 42 women on board, including an 11-month-old boy and four children. The airline said there were only about half a dozen foreigners on the flight, though the company didn't disclose their nationalities.

A RELATIVE of passengers weeps after hearing news of no survivors. AFP

"Imagine the velocity at which it hit the ground coming from an altitude of 36,000 feet (11,000 meters)," Pereira told reporters. "It's very unlikely that there will be survivors." Authorities lost radar contact with Gol flight 1907 on Friday afternoon during its journey from the principal Amazon city of Manaus to the capital Brasilia, the airline said.

Search planes found the crash site in Mato Grosso state, about 600 miles (1,000 km) northwest of Brasilia.

Friends and relatives, many wearing dark sunglasses and hugging and crying, gathered on the patio of a hotel in Brasilia waiting for details. Most could not utter more than one word before bursting into tears.

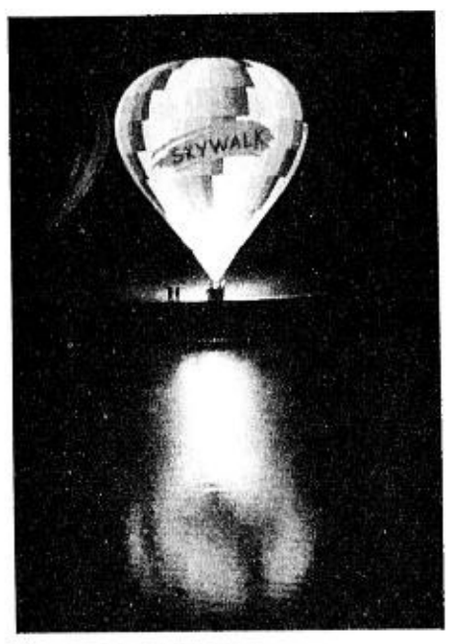
"Gol ... would not say if there might be any survivors," Robson Barreto said as he waited for news on his 29-year-old nephew Rafael who was a passenger.

Denise Abreu, director of civil aviation authority ANAC, said signs indicated there had been a mid-air collision with a smaller jet, which landed safely.

Embraer aircraft manufacturer said one of its executive jets, a Legacy 600 owned and operated by a client, had been involved in a collision and made an emergency landing at Cachimbo air force base with five passengers on board. No injuries were reported.

The Gol plane had been received new from Boeing on Sept. 12 and had only 234 flight hours, the company said.

Until now, the worst air disaster in Brazilian history was the June 1982 crash of a Vasp flight which hit a mountain near Fortaleza in northeastern Brazil, killing 137 people. *Reuters*



BALLOON SHOW
A hot air balloon glows during "Night Glow" of the third international balloon days at Schwendisee lake in Switzerland Sept. 30. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel completes withdrawal from Lebanon

ZARIT, ISRAEL—Israel's army pulled out of south Lebanon early on Sunday to complete a handover to the Lebanese army and UN peacekeepers under a ceasefire to end a war with Hezbollah guerrillas, Israeli military sources said. Returning soldiers padlocked the border gate at Zarit, close to where Iranian-supported Hezbollah fighters seized two soldiers on July 12 and triggered the conflict with US ally Israel that sent shockwaves through the Middle East. Israel sent 10,000 troops into south Lebanon before a truce took hold on Aug. 14. Around 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and 157 Israelis, mostly soldiers, were killed in the fighting—the worst since Israel's 1982 invasion. *Reuters*

GOP leaders knew about e-mail to page

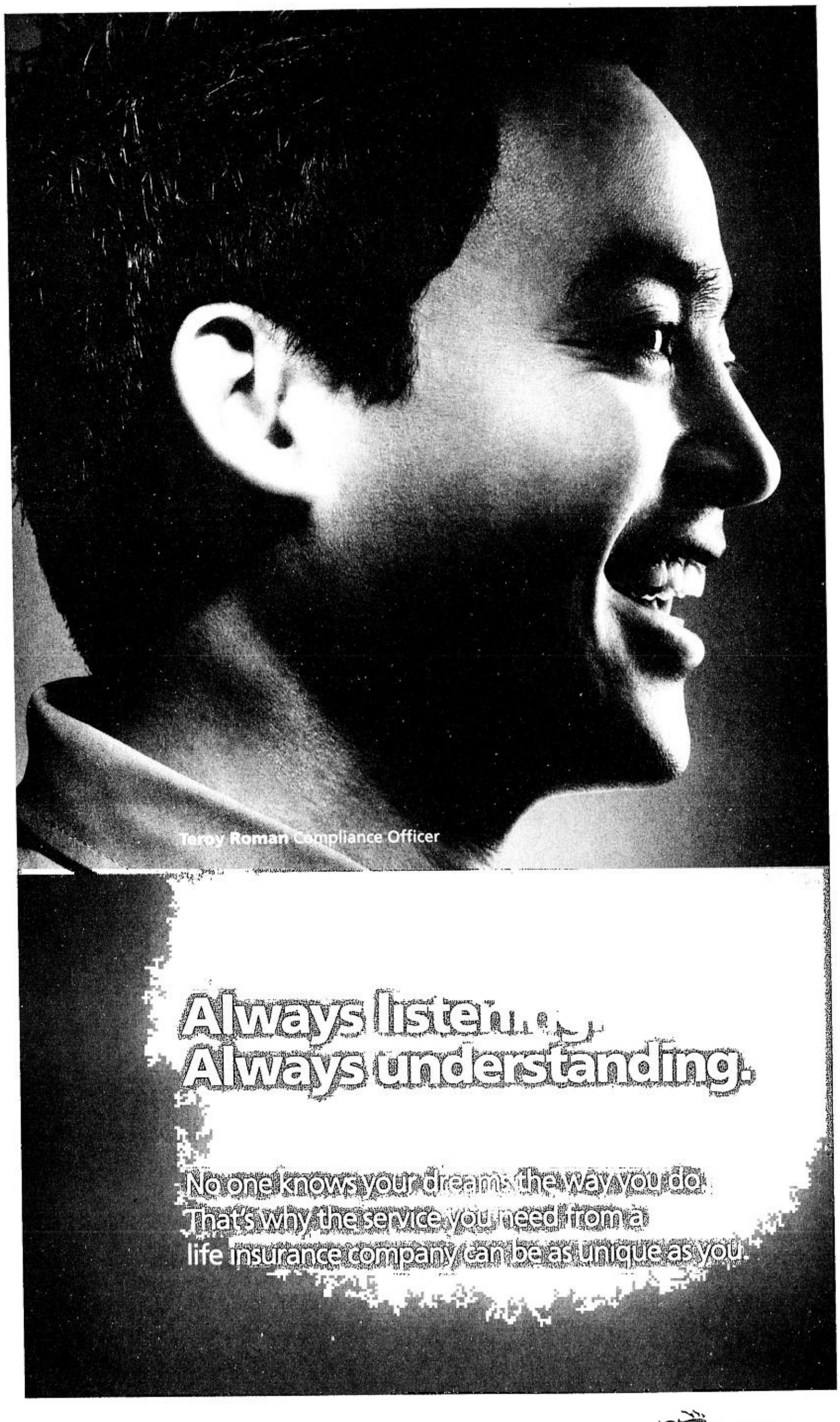
WASHINGTON—Top House Republicans knew for months about e-mail traffic between Rep. Mark Foley and a former teenage page, but kept the matter secret and allowed Foley, R-Fla., to remain head of a congressional caucus on children's issues, Republican lawmakers said Saturday. The exchanges began with what Republicans now describe as an "over friendly" e-mail message from Foley to the unidentified teenager. But news reports about the exchanges have led to the disclosure of e-mail correspondence with other former pages in which the discussions became more and more sexually explicit. Shortly after he was confronted by ABC News on Friday about the subject, Foley, who represented a south Florida district, resigned from the House. The revelations set off a political upheaval, with Democrats and some Republicans alike calling for a full investigation of Foley's conduct and whether House leaders did enough to look into it. *NYT*

Key vote in Hungary after 2 weeks of protests

BUDAPEST—Hungarians voted Sunday in local government elections that are a key test for socialist Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany, who faces calls he step down after lying to the country about the economy. Voting stations opened nationwide at 6 a.m. and are to close at 7 p.m. Gyurcsany predicted "good results" from the nationwide ballots, which would allow him to claim that he has weathered two weeks of anti-government protests that rallied thousands in Budapest. The results "will not be adequate (for the opposition) to use as a referendum to say that (people) voted against the government," Gyurcsany said in an interview on ATV private television late Friday. Gyurcsany set off a political firestorm after admitting in a recording leaked on Sept. 17 that he lied to voters about the dire state of the economy in order to win re-election in April. *AFP*

Mourners remember victims of Bali attacks

JIMBARAN, INDONESIA—Survivors and relatives of the 20 people killed in suicide bombings on Indonesia's Bali one year ago held a somber memorial Sunday amid stepped-up security on the resort island. Some 120 people gathered to mark the one-year anniversary of the coordinated attacks by Islamic militants on three eateries in Kuta, the main tourist strip, and Jimbaran, a quiet bay dotted with beachside seafood restaurants. Fifteen Indonesians, four Australians and one Japanese national were killed in the bloody attacks aimed at "America and its allies," according to documents left behind by the three bombers. *AFP*



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

India cops link Pakistan to train blasts

BOMBAY, INDIA—IN A DECLARATION LIKELY TO increase tensions on this subcontinent, the Indian police on Saturday accused Pakistan's intelligence agency of being behind the July 11 train bombings that killed more than 200 people in this city, also known as Mumbai.

India's top diplomat said Sunday that India would give Islamabad evidence that the spy agency planned the deadly bombings.

"This (evidence) is something that we will certainly take up with the government of Pakistan," said India's new foreign secretary, Shiv Shankar Menon.

Officials in Islamabad swiftly rejected the allegation, which comes at an awkward moment for Pakistan.

On stormy visits to Washington and London this week, the nation's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, was dogged by accusations that Pakistan was not doing enough to curb Islamic militancy, or, worse, might even be aiding it.

Now the Indian police are adding their voice to those claims. They have already blamed Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based militant group fighting to expel India from the disputed Kashmir region, for the blasts.

But on Saturday, for the first time in this investigation, they directly accused the Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence in Islamabad of plotting the bombings.

"We have solved the July 11 bombings case," Anami Narayan Roy, the police chief of Bombay, said during a televised news conference. "The whole attack was planned by Pakistan's ISI and carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba and their operatives in India."

Roy said the intensive investigation, which included questioning suspects drugged with "truth serum," revealed Pakistan's role. "The conspiracy was hatched in Pakistan," Roy said.

Roy said 15 people, 11 of them Pakistanis, have so far been arrested in the investigation. Three Indian suspects are still on the run and a Pakistani bomber was killed in the blasts, he said.

Roy claimed that Pakistani intelligence agents began planning the attacks in March and later provided funding and training for the bombers in Pakistan's Bahawalpur town, a center of militant Muslim activity.

The July 11 attack was India's deadliest in years.

Seven bombs ripped through a series of suburban commuter trains during the evening rush hour in Bombay, killing at least 207 people and injuring 700 more.

Following the bombings, India called a halt to the often-stumbling two-year-old peace talks with Pakistan. But the talks resumed earlier this month, when India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met Musharraf on the sidelines of an international conference in Cuba. They agreed then to set up a joint anti-terror program. *NYT, AP*

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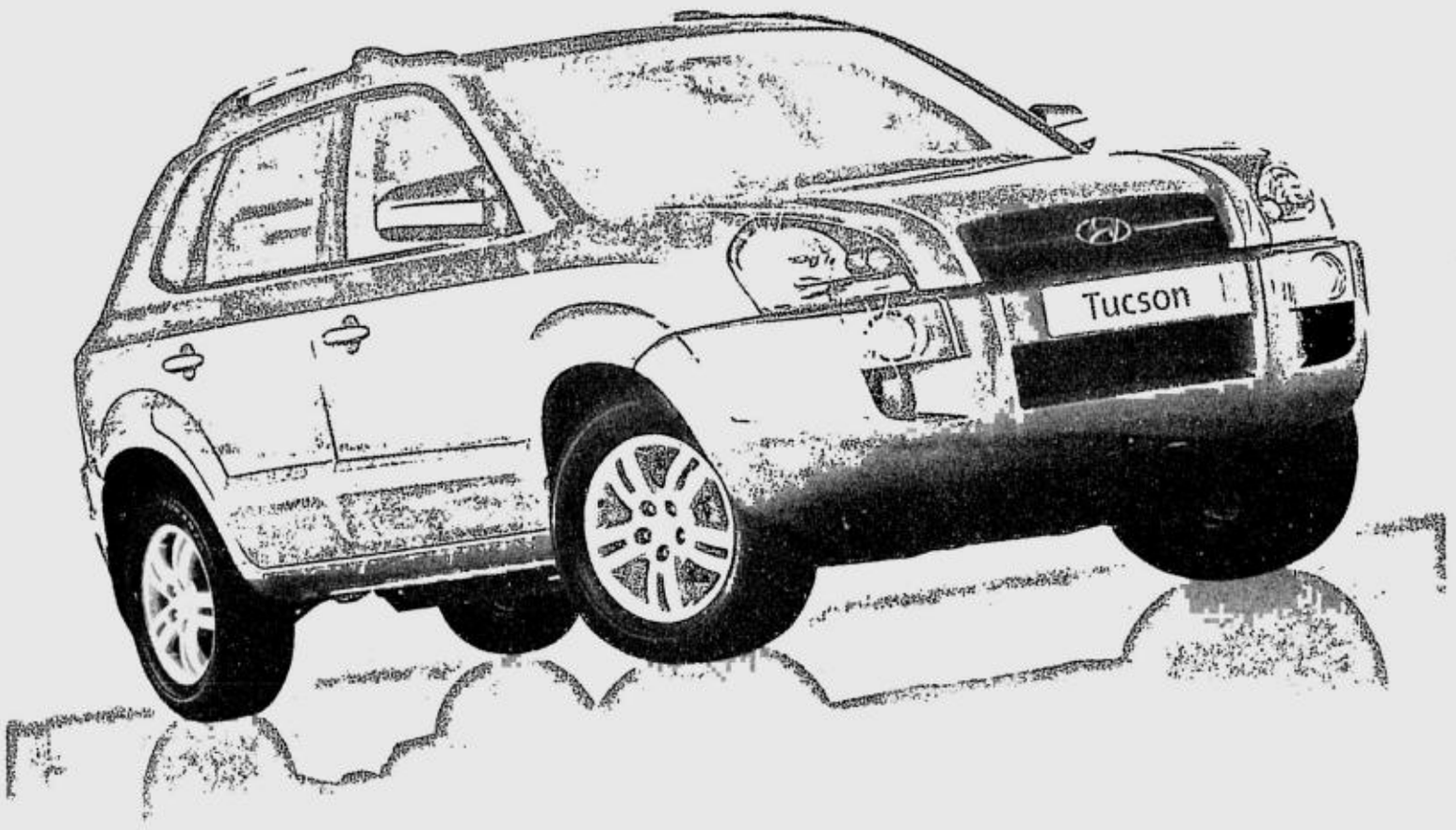

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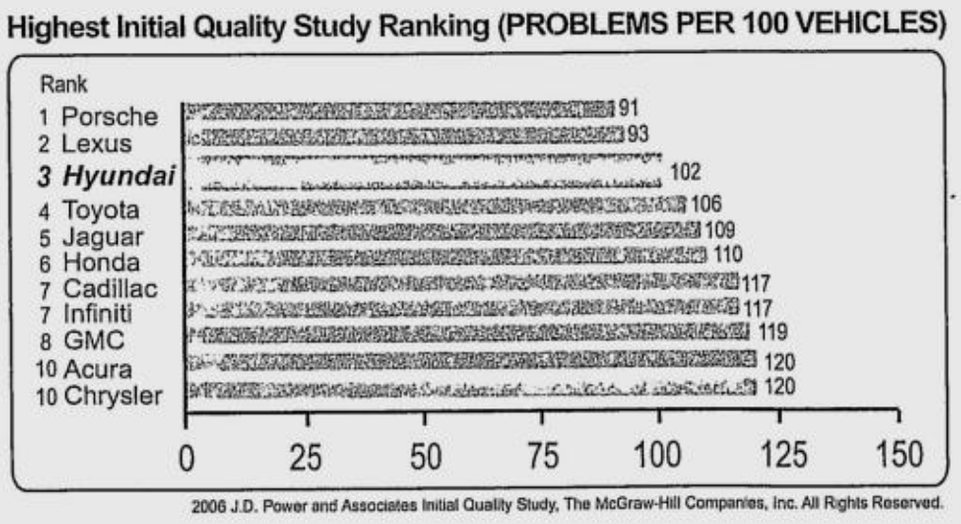

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Santa Fe is National Business Review SUV of the Year

Santa Fe is NBR SUV of the Year.

Yet another accolade for the stunning Hyundai Santa Fe 4WD.

The newcomer has been named SUV of the Year in the current issue of the National Business Review.

"The best prospect in this niche we have seen emerge this year," comments the respected weekly publication.

"In our view it offers the best value for money in a medium-sized four-wheel-drive."

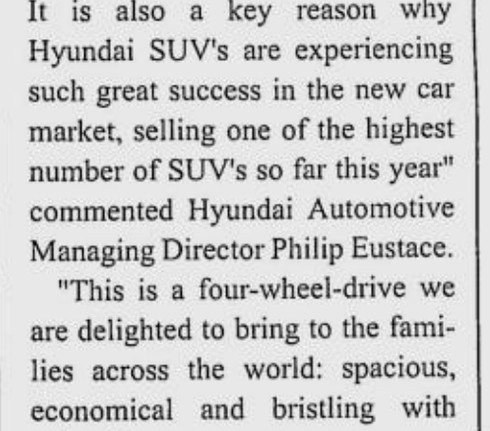
The National Business Review is noted as a trend setter for its raft of Car of the Year awards it gives out each year. Last year it chose the then-new Hyundai Sonata as its overall Car of the Year. Sonata has gone on from there to harvest a multitude of awards all over the world. Several years ago it was the same case with the multi-award winning Hyundai Getz, which won the NBR Small Car of the Year.

"For the new Santa Fe to be singled out in a very tough SUV market speaks volumes for the vehicle. It is also a key reason why Hyundai SUV's are experiencing such great success in the new car market, selling one of the highest number of SUV's so far this year" commented Hyundai Automotive Managing Director Philip Eustace.

"This is a four-wheel-drive we are delighted to bring to the families across the world: spacious, economical and bristling with safety features.

"The only problem is, we can't get enough of them and right now there are waiting lists for some models."

Santa Fe is offered in petrol and diesel variants, as a five or seven-seater. It is locally distributed by the Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.



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SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

RED Bull's Enrico Villanueva sings the Apo Hiking Society's unsinkable "Awit ng Barkada" with from left, Jim Paredes, Danny Javier and Buboy Garovillo in yesterday's opening ceremonies of the PBA's 32nd season at the Big Dome. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Retooled Kings crush Dragons

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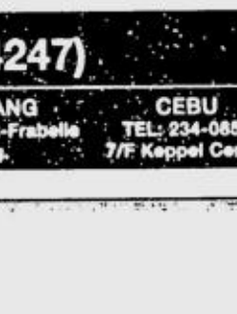

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PETRON Fuel Success.

Gutsy Tigers now thriving in sea of gold

By Musong R. Castillo

SLUMPED IN HIS SEAT JUST A FEW minutes before tip-off, Pido Jarencio looked at the vast sea of gold in front of him, feeling proud deep inside for achieving at least half of what he set out to do.

"Look at them (Santo Tomas crowd), we got them believing in their team once again," Jarencio told the INQUIRER, unmindful of what the next 40 minutes last Friday would bring.

"Whatever happens (in this series), this school has become a solid force, again rallying behind its basketball program."

That support was begging in two previous seasons, when the Tigers were relegated to perennial whipping boys.

Jarencio, a former King Goldie himself, didn't have a problem with that in the mid-1980s, when, as a 5-foot-10 gunslinger, he practically represented the entire Santo Tomas basketball program.

Confident despite a stinging Game 1 loss, Jarencio's overachieving Tigers won with plenty to spare, 87-71, to set up a deciding third game today for the UAAP crown.

The last time Jarencio was in this position was as a player under the late Olympian Charlie Badion in 1984, in a similar Game 3 against Allan Caidic and the University of the East Red Warriors.

It was a match-up that defined that game's place in local basketball history, and one which was Jarencio's closest brush to becoming a UAAP winner.

Despite scoring 49 points, compared with Caidic's 48, Jarencio still failed to lead the Goldies to the championship.

And Santo Tomas would never roar again until Dennis Espino, Rey Evangelista and Bal David led a star-studded team in 1994 to the league's last 14-game sweep to touch off its four straight championships.

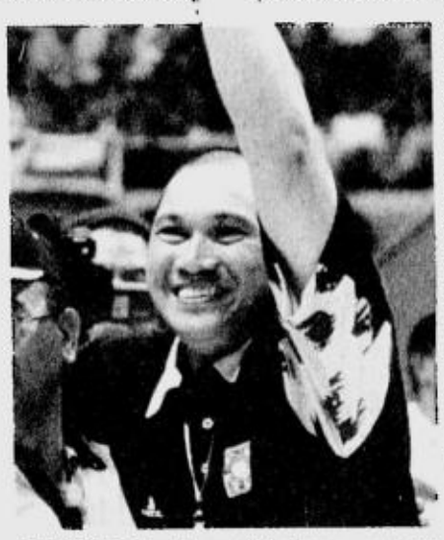
Jarencio's biggest coaching asset may be the way he motivates his players.

In the dugout after the game, he interrupted a wild celebration by reminding his players to thank the alumni, their families and all their supporters for their efforts.

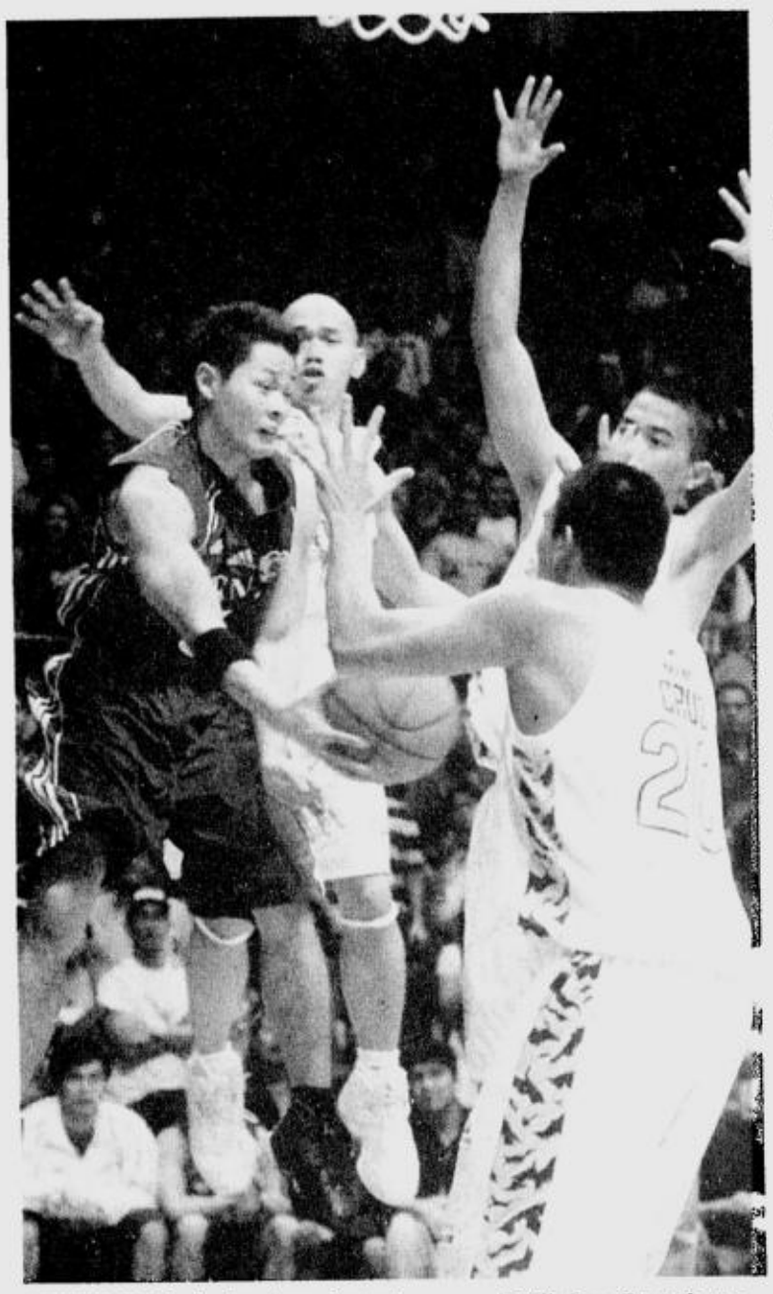
"I have become jealous of you guys," Jarencio said. "In the old days, I was the school's only star. Now you all share that."

His players broke into a wild laugh. But Jarencio was quick to make them wear their game faces again.

"On Monday, it won't be just about basketball anymore," Jarencio said. "It will be you against them (Ateneo) and it will be your hearts and your pride against them."



JARENCIO: Jealous of his boys. RYAN LIM



ATENEO'S Macky Escalona elects to pass as UST's Japs Cuan, Jervy Cruz and another Tiger gang up on him in Game 2. RYAN LIM

Eagles soar, Tigers roar in today's finale

NOW IT ALL COMES DOWN TO DESIRE.

The Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Santo Tomas Tigers collide for the last time today with the team that wants it more expected to take this year's UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

The deciding game of the best-of-three title series is set at 3 p.m. with the Tigers having momentum after their 87-71 win Saturday that spoiled the Eagles' bid to sweep the series.

"I don't think this is about preparation anymore," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "This is about the will to win, the desire to win."

"They're not doing anything different from what they did in Game 1," said Black of the Tigers. "They were just stronger, they were able to rebound better and they made their outside shots. We didn't make our outside shots, we did not shoot well from the perimeter."

UST coach Pido Jarencio confirmed Black's assessment. When the Eagles claimed Game 1 on a brilliant last-second play, 73-72, it was more than enough to motivate the Tigers.

"Our objective was to win Game 2, to get back at them," said Jarencio. "We made no adjustments, we had the same game plan. I just used more players in Game 2.

GAME TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Game 3-Finals)

Best-of-Three Series results
Game 1—Ateneo def. UST, 73-72
Game 2—UST def. Ateneo, 87-71

Indeed, the Tigers reminded the Eagles about the importance of confidence.

"I think they were a lot hungrier than we were," Black admitted. "They really controlled their offensive rebounds in the first half. They seem to get their confidence off that."

The Eagles will be shooting for their fourth title since winning it in 2002 as the No. 3 team in the Final Four.

This time, it will be the Tigers who will try to replicate the feat after jumping to third place after the eliminations and barging into the Finals.

The Tigers, who will be vying for their 19th overall crown, will try to become the fourth team to overcome a 0-1 deficit and win the title playoffs since 1994.

Although Jervy Cruz remains as their main offensive threat, the Tigers again showed they have other options, including Dylan Ababou, who shot 22 points in Game 2, Jojo Duncil, Allan Evangelista and Anthony Espiritu. *Jasmine W. Payo*

MVP man urges Lina to 'exert leadership'

By Musong R. Castillo

RICKY VARGAS, SAMAHANG BASKETBOL Pilipinas chair and president Manny V. Pangilinan's most trusted lieutenant, yesterday urged Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina to move his organization toward completing the unified federation for the sport.

Vargas, also the Philippine Basketball Association chair and SBP incorporator, challenged Lina to "exert his leadership within his organization" and not "go back to square one" after some of his members felt they were "being left out or sidelined."

In a handwritten, two-page statement, Vargas took shots at the BAP leadership, which wanted a national congress to take place, that will, in turn, recognize all personalities and entities it listed on a roster submitted to the SBP.

"The SBP needs time to scrutinize and verify the various names submitted by both the BAP and the PB (Pilipinas Basketball)," Vargas wrote.

"We cannot merely accept the documents at face value. We want to make sure that the people and organizations are truly representatives or stakeholders."

There are names in the 66 items that BAP forwarded who were part of the same BAP that the Philippine Olympic Committee expelled last year.

Vargas' statements gave the impression that these are the same people pressuring Lina to ask for the holding of the Congress.

You, too, don't like Mr. Roach?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT WAS QUITE EASY SAYING NICE THINGS about Freddie Roach, the famous trainer of Manny Pacquiao.

For years, everybody was wholeheartedly convinced that Roach was the best thing that ever happened to Pacquiao.

Not anymore.

This happy unanimity was instantly altered after news broke out that Roach was being lined up as Pacquiao's next manager.

Yes, there were self-styled experts who had readily approved of Roach's reported impending appointment as Pacquiao's trainer-manager.

However, there were the doubting Thomases who were quicker to warn Roach was bound to bungle his new job.

* * *

Why? There's a whole world of difference between training and managing a celebrated boxer, said one urgent advice.

Of course, the few who would readily reject Roach as Pacquiao's next manager also had the best of intentions.

We all wanted the best for the Pacman, mainly in this period when he's preparing for what promises to be his toughest career test.

However, despite this, there also came the suggestion that, this time out, Roach had a bigger ulterior motive in trying to move in as Pacquiao's manager.

"Do remember that, other than his usual cut as trainer, Roach was also asking for 25 percent from Pacquiao's purse," a concerned adviser warned.

Wow. If true, this claim could only mean Roach was no better than those hangers-on who had pretended to help Pacquiao—but actually ended up helping themselves to the celebrated boxer's millions.

* * *

Anyway, for the record, we stated in a previous column that Pacquiao could have finally found the missing link in his career.

We noted that, if Pacquiao has indeed decided to let Roach also work as his manager, this could finally stop the recurring managerial troubles for the celebrated Filipino warrior.

For one, who could question the sincerity, sacrifices—not to mention the track record—of Roach?

And, we said, isn't it about time Pacquiao rewarded himself with a better, truly tested manager who, in the first place, has cared and treated him like his own son?

Not too fast, hold it, we were warned.

Our songs of praise, the alleluiahs (for Roach), we were told, could be a big mistake.

In the first place, it was stressed, Roach has no past managerial experience whatsoever.

He did take over the career of Diosdado Gabi, but that was no vouch he could be any good in this new job he has chosen.

* * *

Well, they have a point there. Even a great trainer could prove to be a big flop once he's left to manage a celebrated boxer.

But despite the rejection, our vote for Pacquiao's next manager has remained steadfastly for Freddie Roach.

We had seen him work his butt out just to share his genius with Pacquiao, in the process molding the brave but shallow warrior into a prizefight masterpiece.

Yes, all those who had bothered to look close enough cannot deny how much Roach would give of himself just to have Pacquiao work the punch mitts, repeatedly catching the terrible impact of the killer blows from one of the sport's hardest hitters.

But that's just one small area in a wide field of concern and involvement that has led us to vote for Roach as Pacquiao's next manager.

* * *

Now, sorry to report this, but Roach was just too good to be true.

Saying Pacquiao was old and mature enough to manage his own career, Roach rejected the impending appointment as manager.

"I'm just content being the trainer, but Manny can always come to me and I will guide him in the right direction," Roach declared.

Pacquiao could go on and kick out more greedy members of his bloated retinue.

But not Roach. If ever, it should be the other way around—Pacquiao getting fired by Roach.

In fact, Roach has already opted to fire himself before they could formally install him as manager.

End of debate. Stop the straw vote. Resume the songs of praise.

SPORTSWATCH

Santos, 4 others gain Milo Jr. net finals

LINDA MARIE SANTOS OF PUERTO PRINCESA CAUGHT THE LAST BUS TO the National Finals of the 2006 Milo Junior Tennis Cup with a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Mary Rivero in the girls' 14-under play yesterday at the PRB Tennis Center in Dapitan, Manila. Santos joined Junrence Mendoza, Crizabelle Paulino, Arjon dela Cruz and Kim Ivan Saraza in the finals of the event that offers slots to tournaments in Malaysia as grand prize. The national finals of the tournament organized by CTW and supported by Adidas, Prince tennis equipment, Alina Family, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Masco chair Ali Atienza will be played this weekend at the same venue. Mendoza edged Erika Lagura, 7-6, 6-1, in the unisex 10-under; Paulino whipped Macy Gonzalez, 6-4, 6-3, in the girls' 12-under; Dela Cruz routed Mark Garaez, 6-0, 6-1, in the boys' 12-under; and Saraza outclassed Klye Cordero, 6-4, 6-0, in the boys' 14-under.

Gonzales wins first match in Mallorca

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER JAYSON GONZALES BESTED MALlorcan ace Miguel Cerdo Fernandez on Saturday at the start of the 19th Es Vermar International Chess Open in Mallorca, Spain. Gonzales, playing black, won in 35 moves of the Alekhine Defense. Gonzales, who obtained his first two GM norms in the 2004 Calvia Open and the 2005 Malaysian Open, needs only one GM result to complete his GM title requirements. Other seeded players who won their initial matches included Cuban GM Lazaro Bruzon (2667), Czech GM Tomas Oral (2510), Ukrainian GM Sergey Krivoshey (2500) and Latvian GM Viesturs Meijers (2474). *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Session for girls only in Coach E venues

THE COACH E BASKETBALL SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS TO GIRLS with exclusive sessions at its five venues starting this month. International Basketball Academy president Xavy Nunag yesterday said the school is also committed to training girls to give them personalized and scientific approach to basketball. Several modules are available at Mt. Malarayat (Oct. 7), San Beda Alabang (Oct. 17), clubsixfifty in Libis, Quezon City (Oct. 13), The Zone in Makati (Oct. 11) and Xavier School (Oct. 6, 8 and 9). For inquiries, call 043-7566265, 043-3124626, 0917-8422403 (Ronnie) for Mt. Malarayat classes and also at 6311195 or 09217562639 for the Metro Manila venues.

Stag Festival finals kick off at Roligon

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S "STAG FESTIVAL 5-STAG DERBY ENTERS ITS championship round today with 80 fights sponsored by Lakpue Drugs Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Eighteen participants advanced to the finals with two wins each. Among the frontrunners are Ralph Diego, Ruben Cuevas, Ed Suyat, Zaldy Anunsabe, Madison Go, Bubot Booc, Michael Faltado, Erwin Maligaya, Arnel Escarra, Reggie Nunag, Tony Jaen, Nick Ocampo, Edgar Non and the San Juan La Union entry. For inquiries, call 0915-2147845, 0919-8207788 or 851-2275.

PCAP derby at Makati Coliseum today

THE STAGFIGHTER OF THE YEAR RACE OF THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIation of the Philippines resumes today in the fourth leg of the series, a 5-stag derby featuring 75 fights at the Makati Coliseum. The derby is sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace and promoted by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. Six participants had identical 4-1 (win-loss) in the third leg on Sept. 18: Henry Villarica (VP Alegria), Boy Marzo (BMRR Sabongworld.Com), Ram Lopez (Altuz WTJ), Rainier Kau (GCM 127 Fort Ilocandia), Pepito Ngo (Fatman) and the Datu Puti entry.For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

75 fights on tap in SJC 5-stag tilt

THE OPENING ROUND OF THE CYBERFRIENDS 5-STAG DERBY BLASTS off at the San Juan Coliseum today with 75 encounters presented by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The list of participants includes Ton Isaac and Capeding Brothers of Davao, winners of the 2005 Araw ng Dabaw 7-cock derby; Rey Requilman of Negros, champion in the CF 4-cock derby in 2004, Arsenio Armada of Iloilo, Glenn Lim and Ranny Tampos of Cebu, James Wolf of Bataan, Aris Ona of Japan, Roldan Ceradoy of Maryland, Bob David of Las Vegas and the Royal cockers group of Britain. The 3-stag finals is on Wednesday, said Cyberfriends president Raul Ebeo. Call 725-5369 or 725-6563.

Retooled Kings crush Dragons

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

A BARANGAY GINEBRA SIDE armed to the teeth played like a well-oiled machine and pounded newcomer Welcoat to submission, 102-69, in last night's formal opening of the PBA Philippine Cup.

Playing hard and not leaving anything to chance, the Gin Kings looked like royalty right from the get-go, establishing double digit leads after just eight minutes to cruise to the win and join idle Red Bull on top.

Still, coach Jong Uichico refused to be drawn into the much-publicized strength of his team, touted as the side to beat in this tournament.

"This is not a gauge if we are a strong team or not, even if we won by a big margin," Uichico later said. "Welcoat is a new team with young players and they (Dragons) are still feeling their way around the league.

Though the Dragons managed to spew some fire in the third period by coming within 10 points once, the Kings quickly retaliated and dashed all hopes of an upset with old hand Johnny Abarrientos orchestrating with complete efficiency.

A 15-2 blitzkrieg to open up the fourth period wrote finis to the gallant Welcoat stand, as the Kings bloated a 72-59 third quarter lead to 87-61.

Billy Mamaril, who came to the Kings as part of that controversial multi-player, three-team deal in the off-season that also included Rafi Reavis and Rudy Hatfield, scored the first six points of the run while the Ginebra defense held the Dragons helpless.

An Adonis Sta. Maria layup at the 11:18 mark was the best Welcoat could muster until the final 7:23, and the damage that the Kings had inflicted was completely irreversible at this point as Eric Menk added four points, Hatfield a layup and Mark Macapagal a triple for that 26-point lead.

Coca-Cola, Purefoods and Talk 'N Text debut on Wednesday with the Tigers slugging it out with Alaska and the Chunkee Giants battling the Phone Pals.

The scores:

GINEBRA 102—Caguioa 23, Hatfield 21, Menk 12, Mamaril 11, Salvacion 9, Helterbrand 9, Reavis 8, Abarrientos 4, Macapagal 3, Adducul 2, Holper 0.

WELCOAT 69—Lopez 12, Bagulon 10, Reyes 10, Tangkay 8, Wainwright 8, Sta. Maria 7, Cabatu 4, Ibanes 3, Gelig 3, Lao 2, Mente 2, Sagad 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 53-34, 72-59, 102-69.

Woods stretches lead to 6

THE ONLY thing Tiger Woods allows his foes to see is a view of his back in the American Express Championships. AFP

CHANDLER'S CROSS, ENGLAND—TIGER Woods was alone on the far end of the practice green at The Grove when this small village north of London lost the last of its light Saturday, his competition already gone in more ways than one.

He rapped three putts at a time, exasperated as each slid by the cup, listening to coach Hank Haney offer quiet instruction as 500 fans stood six-deep behind the railing to watch Woods try to fix a balky putting stroke.

And this was after he made eagle on the final hole to stretch his lead to six shots in the American Express Championship.

"The guy never ceases to amaze me," caddie Steve Williams said.

Despite missing a half-dozen putts inside 12 feet, Woods holed a 35-foot eagle putt on the 18th for a 4-under 67 that demoralized the 60-man field at this World Golf Championship and left him one round away from his sixth consecutive PGA Tour victory.

Woods finished at 19-under 194, putting him six clear of Adam Scott, who had a bogey-free 65.

Jim Furyk played with Woods in a far different capacity than a week ago in the Ryder Cup. They were partners all three days of practice at The K Club and in all four team matches, but competitors at The Grove. Furyk made 16 pars and two birdies for a 69, but wound up losing ground and finished seven shots behind.

"I hit it far better than I did the first two days and made absolutely nothing," Woods said. "It was a struggle on the greens all day. I kept telling myself, 'Just keep hanging in there.' I had two par 5s to play, and if I could play the par 5s and 2 under par, I'd be just fine. I actually did one better."

He needed a little luck. His tee shot on the 567-yard closing hole went to the left, about a yard away from the gallery ropes. But because fans have been leaning into the rope all week to get a better view, the 6-inch grass was trampled down toward the green, giving Woods a perfect lie. With a slight breeze helping, he hit a 5-wood from 283 yards that hopped onto the front of the green.

FURYK REUTERS

He even hit that putt with the wrong speed, expecting it go 6 feet by until the cup got in the way.

"To putt not very good today and still increase my lead is a pretty good feeling," Woods said.

Scott played his best round of the week, picking up birdies on an afternoon with thunder on the horizon and sudden shifts in the temperature as storm fronts passed by.

He was four shots behind when he finished and hopeful of a chance.

"At the moment, I've made up a few shots," Scott said.

Scott won his first tournament of the year three weeks ago at the Singapore Open, beating Ernie Els in a playoff after the final round was cut short to nine holes.

"It was a bit of a thrill for me to beat Ernie, who's a good friend and a guy I've looked up to for a lot of years," Scott said. "But to beat Tiger down the stretch at a World Golf Championship is a whole different story."

Woods is 37-3 on the PGA Tour (43-5 worldwide) when he has at least a share of the lead going into the final round. He has never lost when the lead has been more than one shot. The odds are so much in his favor that one British bookmaker listed him at 1-125 to take home his eighth PGA Tour victory of the year on Sunday.

Woods had gone 53 consecutive holes on the PGA Tour without missing a putt inside 10 feet, a streak that ended on the first hole Saturday when he badly missed a 6-foot birdie. He missed a birdie putt from the same distance on the par-5 second, and an 8-foot attempt on the sixth also slid by on the right.

Someone suggested that Williams, who fumbled Woods' 9-iron into the water on the last day of the Ryder Cup, would have been better off losing the putter to the River Liffey at The K Club.

"I wanted to do a lot of things to that putter today after about six holes," Woods said. "I was hitting the ball so well. I just had to keep giving myself chances. I can't miss them all. I almost did, but I can't miss them all." *AP*

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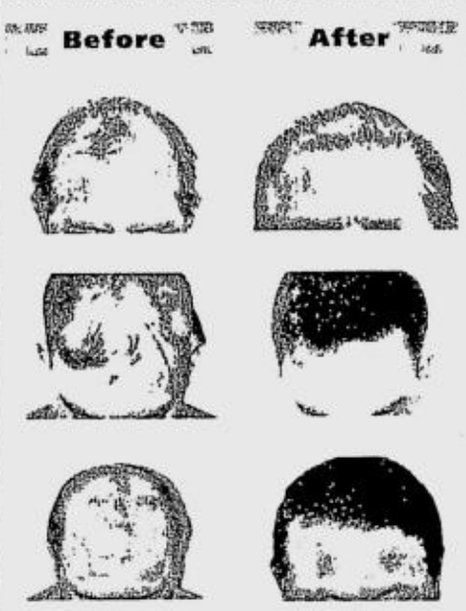

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O'Neal ready for No. 5 with Heat

MIAMI—SHAQUILLE O'NEAL SLOWLY extended the fingers on his enormous left hand, then flashed a megawatt grin.

"Five," O'Neal said in an interview with The Associated Press. "For me, the motivation's five."

Simple enough.

O'Neal has four NBA championships now, the last coming last June when the Miami Heat finished off the Dallas Mavericks in Game 6 of the finals. With the Heat set to open camp on Tuesday, O'Neal believes his team can successfully defend that crown—earning him ring No. 5.

He promised it during the Heat's victory parade: "We're going to do it again next year," O'Neal bellowed as 250,000 fans celebrated outside the team's arena on a steamy afternoon three days after the title-clinching win.

At least 13 players from last season's team return for 2006-07; reserve Shandon Anderson remains a free agent, while late-season-acquisition Derek Anderson parted ways with the Heat this summer.

All the key players from last season's playoff run—finals MVP Dwyane Wade, O'Neal, Udonis Haslem, Antoine Walker, Alonzo Mourning, James Posey, Jason Williams and Gary Payton—are back.

So while some probable Eastern Conference challengers spent the summer adding pieces—Chicago got Ben Wallace and P.J. Brown; Detroit signed Nazr Mohammed in Wallace's spot; Indiana reacquired Al Harrington—the Heat decided to keep what worked.

"We have a formula and we're going to stick to that formula," O'Neal said. "A lot of guys are getting better, but I'm not impressed by what anybody else has done. I've seen it all before. We know what we have to do. We already know teams, when they come play us, they play extra hard. We'll be ready."

O'Neal averaged 20.0 points and 9.2 rebounds last season. On one hand, stellar numbers; on the other, career-lows that prompted talk of how the 34-year-old center is declining.

That conversation resumed during the finals, when O'Neal was almost a statistical nonfactor—13.7 points, 29.2 percent shooting from the foul line, a career-playoff-low five points in one loss.

"I don't think there's any doubt that while he might be disappointed, he was anything else other than absolutely happy and euphoric in the whole thing, in winning," Heat coach Pat Riley said. *AP*

Asiad budget not enough

By June Navarro

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ATHLETES has eased the pressure on the P30-million budget allocated by the government for the national team competing in the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar this December.

But despite striking off softball and water polo from the list of disciplines where the country will compete, Team Philippines is still staring at a budget deficit estimated at about P3 million.

"We really cannot go over P30 million," said commissioner Richie Garcia, the Philippine Sports Commission's (PSC) overseer of national sports associations affairs. "Other expenses outside of that budget should come from other sources."

"And even if all the team events are not going, we would still be over the budget," he added.

Baseball, whose medal chances are poor, is the only team sport in the RP roster, whose number is now down from 399 to a tentative count of 366, 236 of them athletes.

"We will finalize the final figure tomorrow (today) because even baseball has decided to reduce its number," said Garcia, who stressed that the PSC would spend at least P90,000 for each member of the delegation.

Conservative estimates have shown that at P90,000 each, the P30-million budget could only cover 333 national team delegates, including athletes, officials and the secretariat.

Though the final count has yet to be finalized, baseball will have to carry the brunt of shouldering its own participation in the Dec. 1-15 conclave.

Virtuoso performance gives Schumacher share of No. 1

SHANGHAI—MICHAEL SCHUMACHER DElivered one of his most dazzling virtuoso drives on Sunday to win the Chinese Grand Prix and move within reach of his eighth drivers world championship.

The 37-year-old German, in his Ferrari, overcame the challenge of wet and dry conditions at the Shanghai International Circuit to triumph in a stirring and dramatic race after starting from sixth on the grid.

His title rival, defending champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso, of Renault, started from pole, led for 30 laps but ended up finishing second after being beset by tire problems. Schumacher led him home by 3.1 seconds.

SCHUMACHER AFP

Alonso's Renault teammate Italian Giancarlo Fisichella finished third, but like Alonso was overshadowed in all departments by the all-round excellence of an inspired Schumacher who afterwards declared the renaissance of his title challenge as "miraculous."

It was Schumacher's first win in China after two poor results, his fifth win in seven races and arguably the most important of the year and, possibly, his long career before he heads into retirement.

His win meant he moved up to 116 points in the title race level with Alonso, but leads the championship by having won seven races to the Spaniard's six with only two races to go.

"It is quite miraculous that we are here back in front after where we were a few months ago, but it is thanks to great work from everybody in the team that we have managed it," said Schumacher, grinning broadly.

"Now we go into the last two races to see what happens and I believe we will have to go to the last one before a decision is reached. It is going to be an interesting couple of weeks and I am looking forward to it very much," he added.

A bitterly disappointed Alonso, who sportingly shook Schumacher's hand berfore mounting the podium, took a philosophical view.

"We had a good start for 15 or 20 laps and then decided to change the left front because it was nearly a slick and it was not the ideal thing to do.

"They (Schumacher and Fisichella) left their tyres on and soon came up quickly behind me and the gap disappeared. After that we were at a disadvantage and we tried to find our own miracle, but we were beaten and it was too late." *AFP*

SPORTS

Orcollo keeps tie for WPL leadership

STANDINGS after four games (2 points for a win, 1 for draw, 0 for loss): 5 pts—**Dennis Orcollo (RP)**, Ralf Souquet (Germany); 4—Neils Feijen (Netherlands), Radoslaw Babica (Poland); 3—Thorsten Hohmann (Germany), Chang Pei-wei (Chinese-Taipei).

FILIPINO DENNIS ORCOLLO POSTED HIS third draw in a row to keep his share of the lead in the six-man 2006 PartyCasino.com World Pool League Saturday in Warsaw, Poland.

The 27-year-old native of Bislig, Surigao del Sur, battled crowd favorite Radoslaw Babica of Poland to a 5-5 tie, which he duplicated in a later match against former World Pool titlist Ralf Souquet of Germany.

Counting his earlier win over 2004 Taiwan World pool runner-up Chang Pei-wei of Chinese-Taipei, 6-4, and a 5-5 draw with 2003 World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Orcollo now has 5 points, in a tie with Souquet.

After drawing with Babica and Chang, Souquet beat Niels Feijen of the Netherlands before the draw with Orcollo.

Orcollo must win his final assignment against Feijen on Sunday to make it to the final four.

A total prize of $50,000 is at stake with $20,000 going to the winner. *Marlon Bernardino*

LUAT shows fine form against Bryant.

Luat 2 victories away

RP bet still unscathed in tough US Open pool

RODOLFO "BOY SAMSON" LUAT SUSTAINED his fine form Saturday, moving within two wins of ruling the prestigious 2006 US Open 9-Ball championship at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The 49-year-old from Angeles City became the lone Filipino title contender by besting Charlie Bryant, 11-8, before nipping Robb Saez, 11-10, to arrange a winner's bracket showdown for the first title slot with Gabe Owen.

The winner of the Luat-Owen duel then waits for the survivor from the losers' group to dispute the title won last year by Alex Pagulayan and in 1994 by Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Owen, the 2004 US Open champ, was the only other unbeaten entry. He pinned a first loss on Filipino Ronnie Alcano, 11-6, before slipping past Dave Broxson, 11-9.

First prize in one of the game's most sought-after titles is worth $40,000.

Alcano later bowed out after an 11-8 loss to John Schmidt, who had also booted out Filipino Antonio Gabica, 11-4.

Earlier, Lee Van Corteza became the day's first RP casualty as he was eliminated by Mika Immonen, 11-3. Joining him in the sidelines was Gandy Valle, who was ousted by Steve Moore, 11-7.

It will be Schmidt against Saez and Broxson against Appleton in the semifinals of the losers' bracket. The winners then collide for the right to face the loser of the Luat-Owen duel. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

National golfers to trade shots with Mindanao's finest

MINDANAO'S BEST SHOTMAKERS WILL mix it up with members of the national pool in the fifth and final elimination leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour starting Thursday at the Del Monte Golf Club course in Bukidnon.

Del Monte's stable of talents, bannered by Joel Opaco, Tristan Tabanas, Yoyong Velez, Louie Dacudao and Ben Miñoza, are set to face off with national pool members in a bid to take the last spot in the championship division of the national finals.

Out to foil the homegrown bets are national pool mainstays Mike Bibat, the former Singapore Amateur Open winner; Jay Bayron and Anthony Fernando.

They will try to join an elite finals cast that already includes Royal Northwoods leg winner Marvin Dumandan, Baguio champ Jun Bernis, Davao titlist Gene Bondoc and Ferdie Aunzo, who topped the Splendido Taal stop.

Samsung is the chief sponsor of the tournament also backed by Taylor Made, C-Lium Fibre, Microtel, Titleist, Custom Clubmakers/KZG, Sunbolt and Sunrise Hotel.

Media partners are Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9 and 99.5 RT and Solar Sports Plus which will air highlights of the event.

Playing on Oct. 5 and 6 are the entries in the three handicap brackets of ladies and men's Class C and D. Those in men's Class A and Class B will join the 10 survivors of the championship class in the last two rounds on Oct. 7 and 8.

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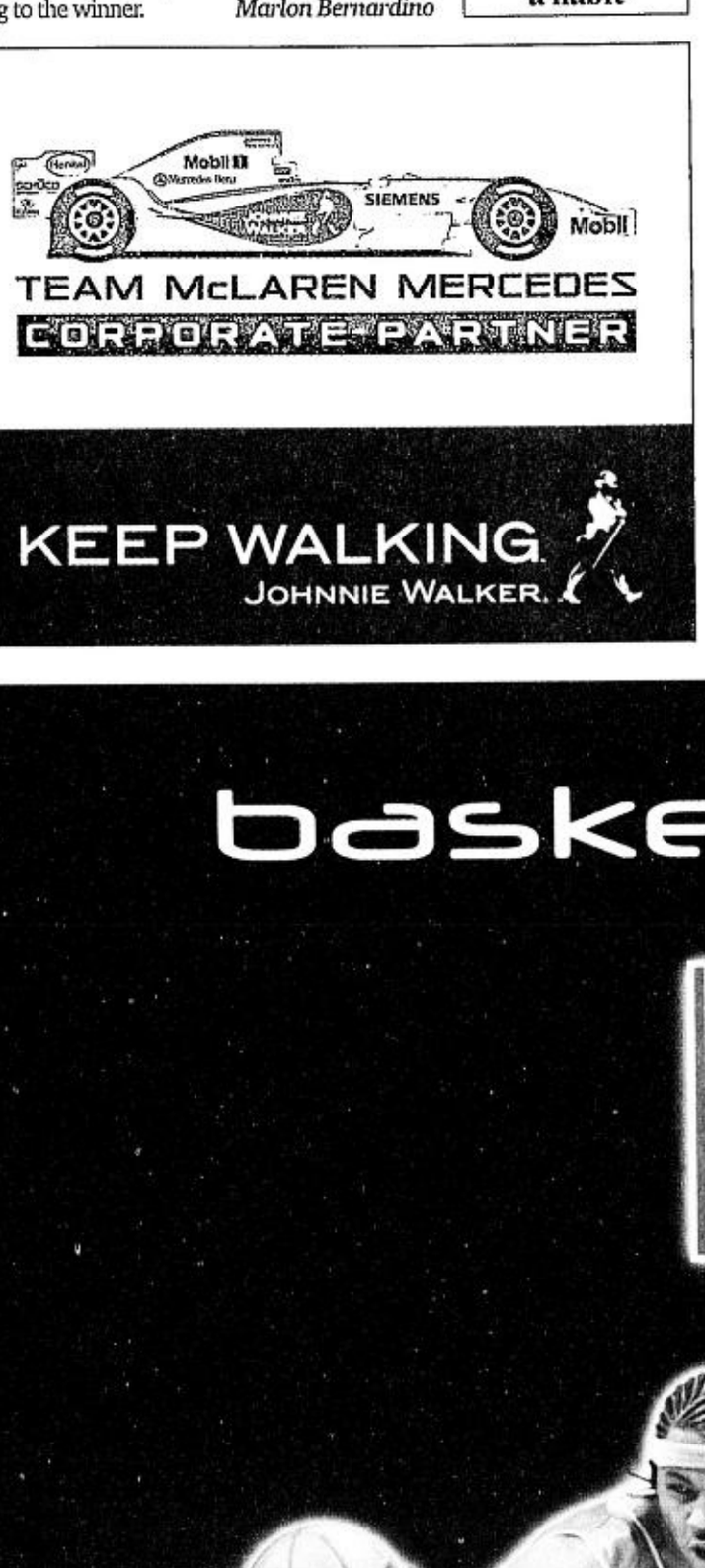

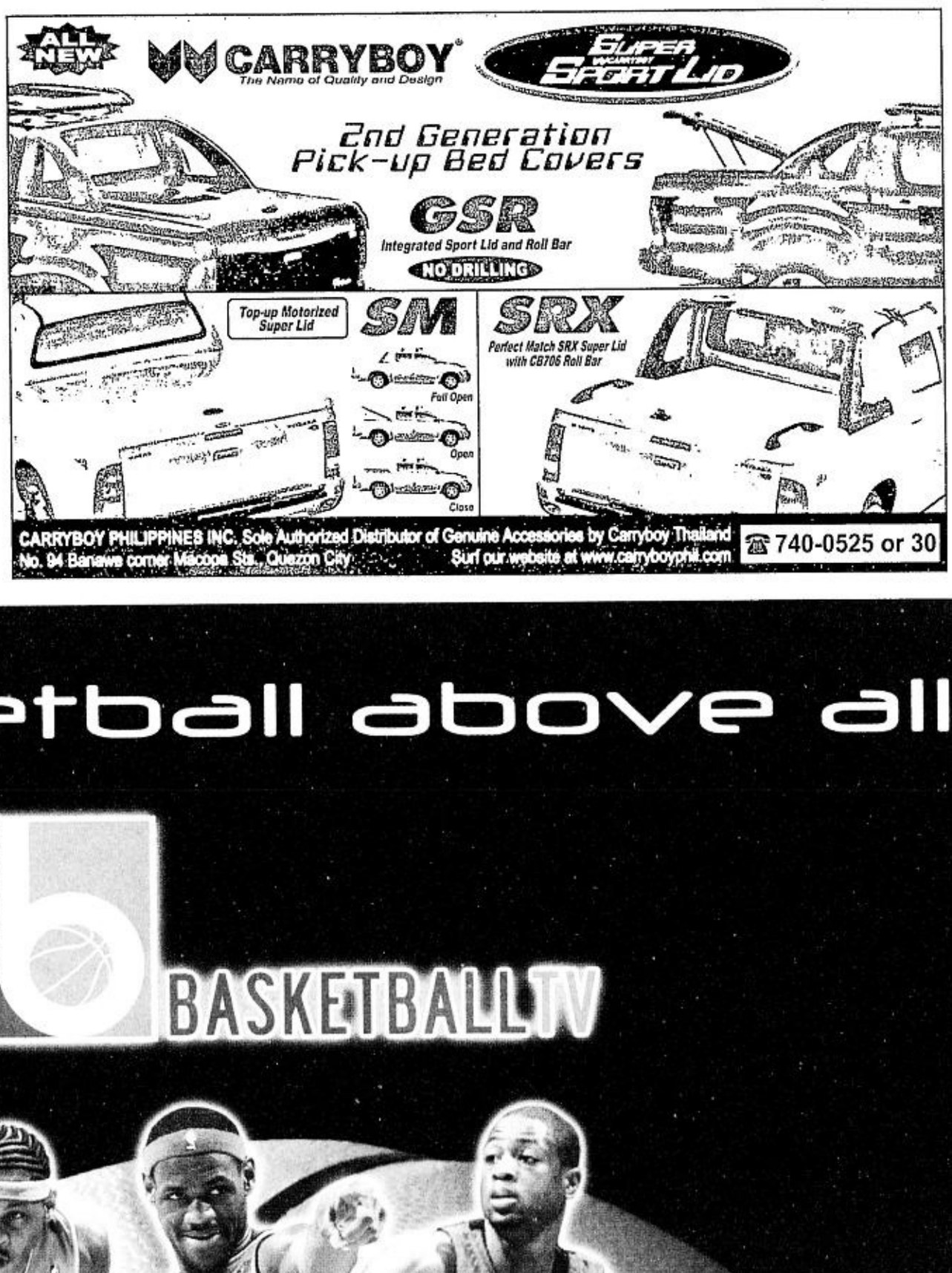

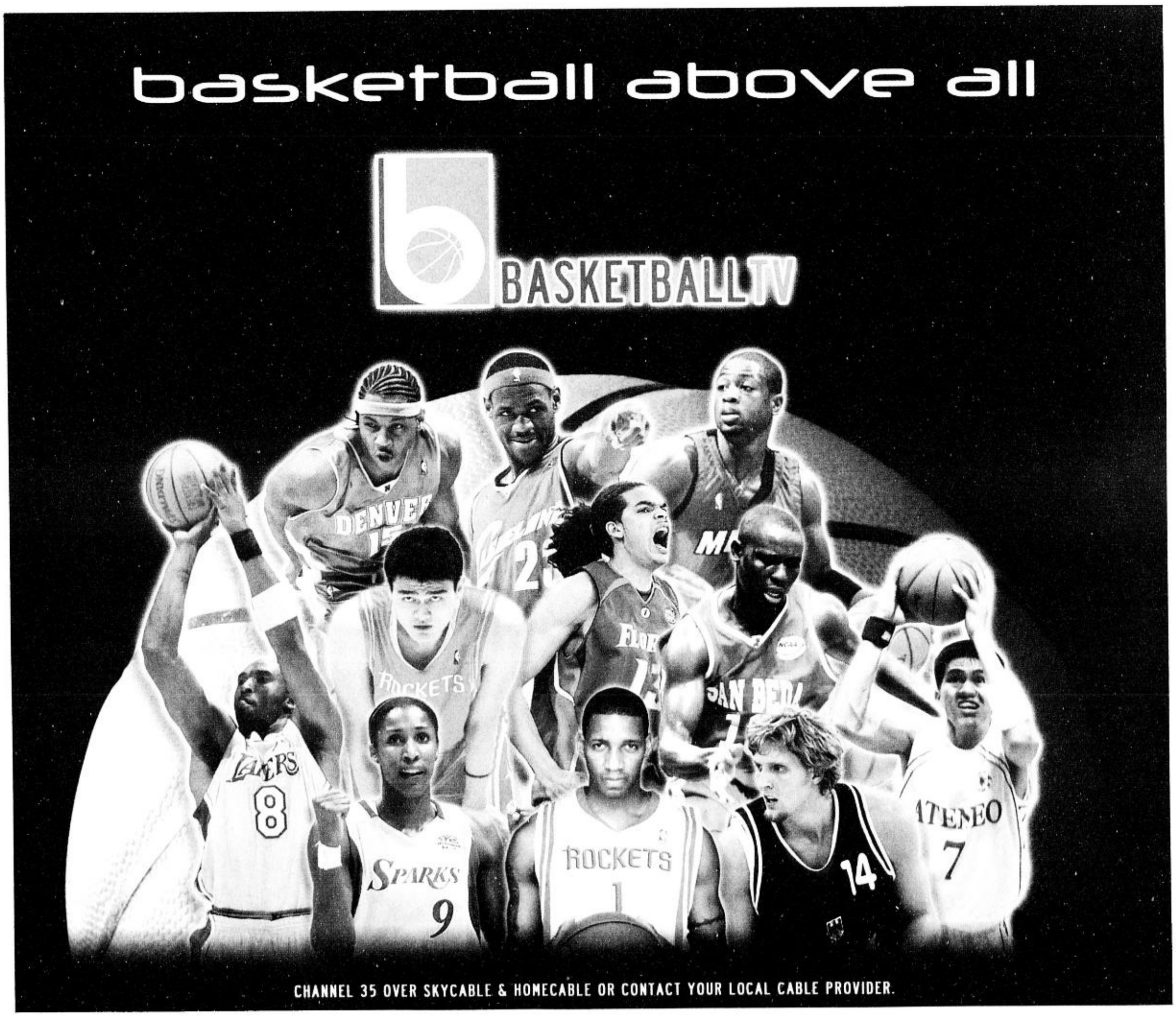

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Lopez eyes public offer for tollways unit

Funds needed to settle debt, fund expansion

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE LOPEZ GROUP WILL LET ITS TOLL ROAD BUSIness through Manila North Tollways Corp. go public to raise funds for expansion projects if no negotiated sale could be concluded soon, INQUIRER sources said.

Benpres Holdings Corp. chair Oscar M. Lopez told the INQUIRER that the Lopez holding firm was looking for a "good price" for its stake in the tollways operator, "otherwise it goes to market."

Benpres owns 49 percent of First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp., which owns 67 percent of MNTC, the operator of the 80-kilometer North Luzon Expressway. The balance of 51 percent in FPIDC is with Benpres' sister firm First Philippine Holdings Corp.

Talks with Metro Pacific Corp. to acquire Benpres' 49-percent stake in MNTC earlier bogged down due to pricing differences.

Aside from an initial public offering, another possible option for MNTC is to undertake a backdoor listing—by being acquired by or acquiring a publicly listed firm in line with a long-term vision to go public in the future.

MNTC began commercial operations of the new North Luzon Ex-

LOPEZ/ B5

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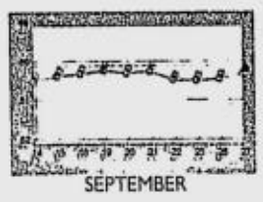

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Upbeat trading seen

SENTIMENT MAY STILL BE UPBEAT THIS week as investors continue to ride on the economy's growth story, online broker 2TradeAsia.com said in a weekly note to clients.

UPBEAT/ B6

Brittany

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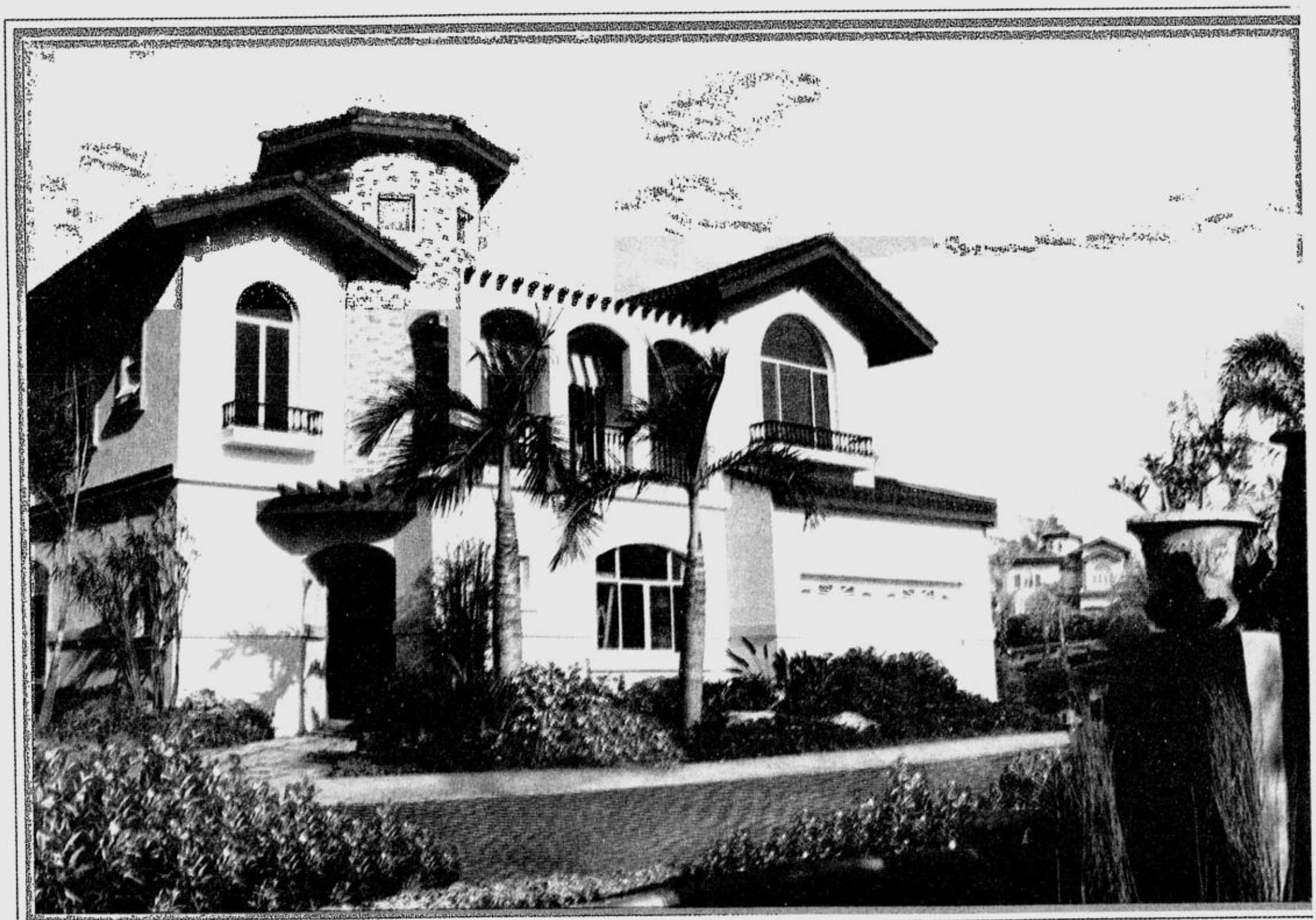

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Iloilo milkfish producers seek exports to Europe

By Christine A. Gaylican

MILKFISH PRODUCERS FROM ILOILO ARE looking to export more organically grown milkfish to the European Union by next year.

Iloilo Fish Producers Association Inc. president Antonio Paulino U. Buyco said the group has received technical assistance from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to find ways to penetrate the potentially lucrative niche market.

"With the assistance of the GTZ, milkfish producers from Iloilo are now scaling up production of naturally grown milkfish to get accreditation," Buyco said at the Good News Kapihan at the Tavern on the Square in Makati last week.

Organically grown milkfish feed on algae and plankton.

No artificial feeds are given, he explained.

GTZ project manager Anja Gomm said there was great potential in organic milkfish exports to the EU, because Europeans are looking for more healthy food.

Gomm added that value-added products, such as marinated and filleted milkfish, would sell even in the mainstream EU market.

The Iloilo producers prefer to sell their produce overseas because of oversupply, forcing them to sell at a loss, Buyco said.

Buyco said producers have to pass the strict accreditation protocols of the European Commission to boost their chances of accessing other markets such as the Middle East and Japan.

Iloilo milkfish are already finding their way into Europe through the EU-accredited processing facility of Sta. Cruz Foods in General Santos City.

However, aquaculturist David B. Villaluz noted that naturally grown milkfish has low average yields of 600 to 700 kilograms per hectare per year compared to the average 10,000 kilograms with artificial feeding.

Meantime, milkfish growers in the Island Garden City of Samal are exerting efforts to export more milkfish to the United States, particularly Hawaii.

Erlinda Ali, Extension Training and Communications Division chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) 11, said in an interview that Igacos milkfish growers have been exporting their produce since last year.

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DA warns against smuggled birds

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has warned against the proliferation of smuggled poultry products, saying it could lead to the spread of the deadly avian flu virus.

The BAI issued the warning due to reports of smuggling of exotic birds and poultry products from North Sulawesi and Kalimantan, Indonesia through the ports in southern Mindanao.

BAI Director Davinio Catbagan said in an interview that Indonesia was still grappling with the deadly avian flu virus.

"It is the illegal trade that we fear that might spread the (avian flu) virus, not the migratory birds," Catbagan said. "We need all the help we can get."

The DA has again sought the assistance of other line agencies, such as the Philippine Coast Guard, the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Ports Authority, to tighten the watch on all the country's ports.

He said that the avian flu virus, also known as the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, caused more than 30 deaths in Indonesia.

The avian flu that affects fowl and other bird species could be passed on to humans and a cure has yet to be found.

The Philippines has been free of the lethal avian flu virus for the last three years, unlike Japan, China, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia.

Christine A. Gaylican

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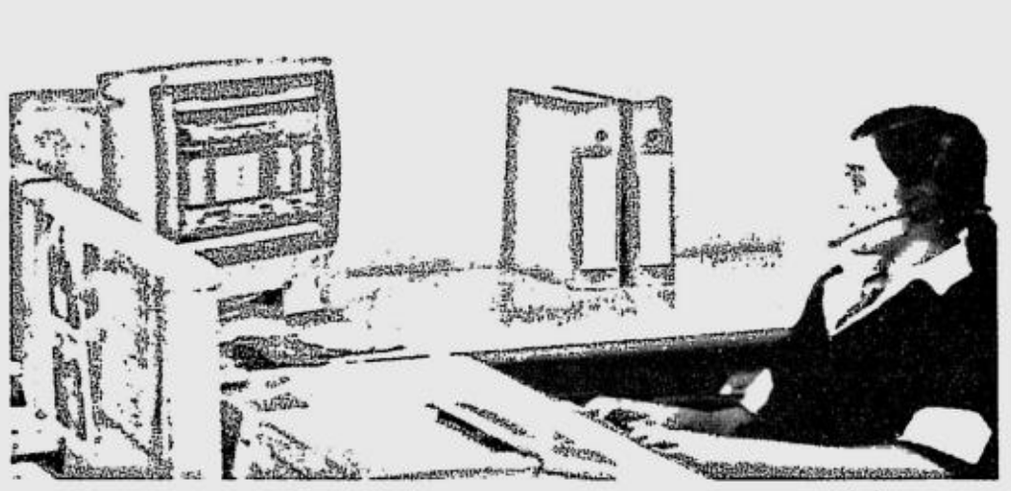
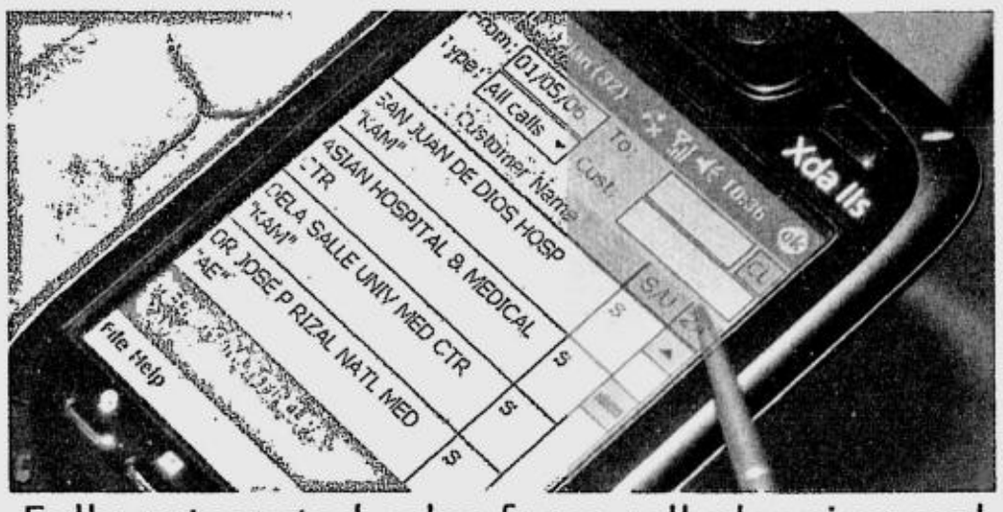


Customer requirements are supported by a customer call center and 22 sales service offices.



Fully automated sales force call planning and order-taking systems. Customers can also order "anytime" via on-line ordering systems.

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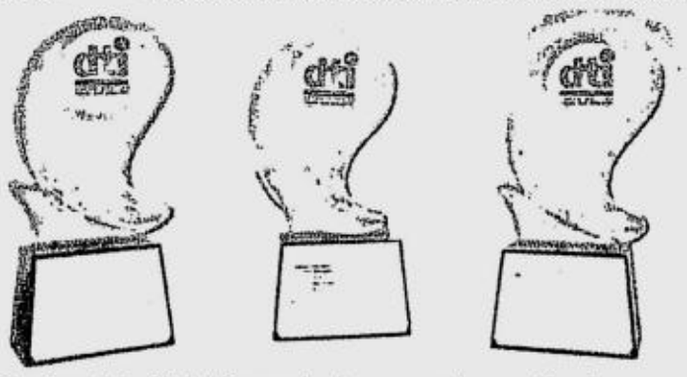

The Search for Model Companies is an annual recognition for companies and organizations that have established institutional linkages with the DTI-CIC through its Pro-active Programs for Competitiveness. The award of distinction is given to companies with exemplary programs to promote harmonious labor-management relations in order to improve productivity and competitiveness within their organizations.

Zuellig Pharma Wins Model Company Award

The Department of Trade and Industry recently recognized Zuellig Pharma in the 16th Proactive Programs Achievement Award for Model Companies.

Zuellig Pharma earned awards in all three categories:

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Ensuring sustainability

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Cielito F. Habito

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HAS been a buzzword in development discussions around the world since the early 1990s. A critical turning point was the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July 1992, more popularly known as the Rio Earth Summit. What distinguished this particular summit was that it was driven as much by people outside of government and international public institutions (i.e. civil society), as it was by heads of governments and high officials from all the UN member-countries who came. The summit ushered in a new era of multi-stakeholder partnerships in pursuit of sustainable development.

Defining SD

But what do we exactly mean by sustainable development? The most widely-cited definition is the one adopted by the Brundtland Commission in 1987: It is providing for the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It is, in other words, a forward-looking development.

The recent havoc wrought by Typhoon "Milenyo" calls attention to how gains achieved over many years can be undone in an instant. It also calls attention to how wanton disregard for longer-term consequences of certain actions in pursuit of economic gains can have far more destructive consequences than any short-term gains achieved. I need not dwell on particular examples here. Those whose lives and livelihoods were swept away by flash floods don't need numbers to prove this. We see this lesson with every disaster that has hit us—recent prominent ones include Marinduque, Infanta, Guinsaugon, Rapu-Rapu and Guimaras—but do we actually learn it?

Six dimensions

But then there is much more to sustainable development than care for the environment. Agenda 21, the global declaration of principles that emanated from the 1992 Earth Summit, emphasizes the need to see the economic, social and environmental dimensions of human welfare as integrated and mutually-supporting goals of development.

In my own advocacy for sustainable development, I like to highlight six dimensions, not just three. The political, cultural and spiritual dimensions of human welfare are implicitly subsumed under the "social" dimension in Agenda 21. But along with other like-minded fellow advocates for holistic and integrative sustainable development, I believe that these three additional dimensions deserve distinct attention of their own. And addressing these six dimensions, in my view, is quite apt for our country in its current situation, as it is for other similarly-placed countries at this time.

Defining sustainability

What is required, then, for us to achieve sustainable development? What does it mean to have economic, social, environmental, political, cultural and spiritual sustainability?

For the economy, this implies growth in production and incomes that can be sustained over time, not with the "boom-and-bust" cycle that has marked our economic performance for decades. It requires that economic growth be broad-based, not skewed towards a few sectors and geographic areas. A basic prerequisite is for government to manage its finances well and not incur huge deficits that lead to an unsustainable debt burden. In the social dimension, sustainability requires that people are assured of their basic needs, equitable opportunities, fairness and social justice. It requires that poverty and deprivation be minimal if not non-existent, and that gaps in society are not so glaring as to foster social tension and unrest, including criminality and rebellion. In the environmental dimension, it entails a basic respect for nature and prudent management of natural resources. On this, community-based approaches involving active stakeholder participation in resource management have been demonstrated to be most effective.

=In the political dimension, sustainability requires that people have a genuine voice and influence in charting their futures. It entails transparency and accountability in governance, and inclusion and empowerment of the marginalized in society, ensured through participatory governance and policymaking. In the cultural dimension, it implies cultural diversity and identity, mutual respect among divergent cultures, national pride and patriotism, and asserting sustainable lifestyles found in indigenous cultures. And in the spiritual dimension, sustainability requires strong value systems, where the common good reigns over self-interest. It implies that sustainability is ingrained in us as a basic ethic, not just as a necessity. And it implies a strong faith in God and living that faith in words and deeds.

With these as yardsticks, how sustainable do you think our current state of development is?

The next Ateneo Eagle Watch Economic and Political Briefing will attempt to make such an assessment, with the

NO FREE LUNCH/ B7

RP-Taiwan trade up 6.2% in Jan.-July

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES and Taiwan from January to July this year increased 6.2 percent to about $4.2 billion as Manila and Taipei continued efforts toward closer economic ties.

Latest data from Taiwan's Government Information Office or GIO showed the island economy had received goods from the Philippines worth some $1.69 billion as of the end of July. This was 9.4 percent higher than $1.54 billion in the same period in 2005.

In the same months, Taiwan shipped to the Philippines goods worth $2.5 billion, up 4.1 percent from year-ago level.

The seven-month trade report showed Taiwan posting a trade surplus of $817.5 million, down 5.4 percent from year-ago's $863.9 million.

GIO data showed that the Philippines remained Taiwan's 12th-largest trading partner during the period, accounting for 1.78 percent of its total global trade valued at $235.1 billion.

Among developing countries, the country is Tawan's fourth-largest trade partner after Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand, and the 11th largest destination of Taiwanese exports.

The Philippines is the 14th-largest source of Taiwan's imports, accounting for about 1.5 percent of the total worth $115.4 billion.

In December 2005, Filipino and Taiwanese officials held an economic forum that was highlighted with the signing of an agreement to establish a growth corridor that would link the Kaohsiung freeport area in southern Taiwan to the Subic and Clark special economic zones in northern Philippines.

Officials said Taiwan was pushing for a lower local content requirement for goods made by Taiwanese manufacturers in Subic to be treated as local products.

Armand C. Arreza, administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said Taiwan wanted the minimum 40-percent required local content reduced to 25 percent so Subic-made products could enter the local market more freely.

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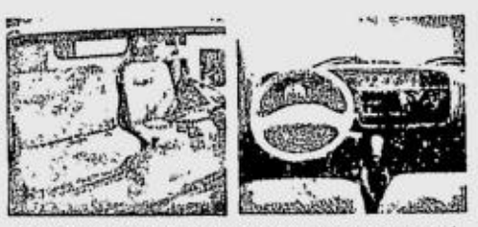

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FUSO

10 Milenyo business lessons

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TYPHOON MILENYO BROUGHT METRO Manila back to the Marcos-Cory brownout years we thought we had gotten rid of. Still, the silver lining about last week's disaster is that it has finally shocked a critical mass of government and business people about the inefficiencies and vulnerabilities of public works infrastructure in the country.

Lesson No. 1. Power and telephone lines must be buried in the Makati and Ortigas commercial districts like what has already been done in the Fort.

If the Philippines wants to be globally competitive in the call center business, then, by golly, we must provide these BPOs power and phone service 24/7.

2. The LRT and MRT must have a dedicated power connection 365 days a year.

As it is now, the light rail system depends on a number of several Meralco substations to deliver electricity and run the trains; when, say, the south of Pasig River Meralco franchise goes dead, the entire Baclaran-Monumento service unfortunately goes kaput as well.

3. Like the LRT, traffic lights also need independent power supply, plus back-up power source (battery and solar power) like those used in train crossing signals in other countries.

4. Edsa, C-5 and the South and North Luzon expressways must be rid of billboards.

5. To ease gridlock in the Makati commercial district, Ayala and Buendia can and must be converted into a one-way loop.

6. Builders need to review their condominium templates, especially those built like glass and concrete cages. Generators, no matter how powerful, are not designed to run nonstop for days.

7. Malls have now become the extensions of sala+dining+TV rooms of Metro Manilans. Rockwell did roaring business Thursday night—the lone mall left open with full power—from Makati village residents and condominium dwellers who were escaping the heat and the boredom of their darkened houses.

8. The local telcos will have to rely more on Wimax and other wireless means of delivering service to literally untangle themselves from the vagaries of nature.

9. When the weather cleared on Friday, the banks' ATM network, the supermarkets, and the malls were back on their feet despite electricity still unrestored. Should the government need insights on how to overcome supply-chain difficulties, the industry's backroom boys can fill up an entire how-to manual.

10. Filipinos, despite their toxic politicians and feckless bureaucrats, are still a cheerful lot. Eavesdropping on their exchanges of disaster stories, you would think that Milenyo was one big adventure.

Money-go-round

● TAIPAN son Alfred Ty is rushing another tent to replace the totally damaged Le Pavillon in time for a number of previously booked Christmas events. A number of Toyota cars on display for an exhibition were slightly damaged on Thursday as the tent was being ripped apart by the typhoon.

● THE ENTIRE roof and steel structure of the upper penthouse office of Endika Aboitiz in Legaspi Village was blown away, landing on a back street during the height of typhoon Milenyo. Luckily, no one was hurt.

● THE REGENT Parkway, which adjoins the twin Essensa towers in the Fort, suffered at least five broken windows on its north side. And, according to texter S. Cuttle Butt, a number of tree trunks crashdived into the open-air pool of One Roxas Triangle beside the Mandarin.

Heard through the grapevine

BMW has been chosen as the official car for the heads of state and other VIPs attending the Asean Summit that is being held in Cebu later this month.

The German luxury carmaker is providing more than 50 units of 5 and bullet-proofed 7 Series, a number of which will be made available to the local market at discounted prices after the event.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Gov't eyes $300-M ADB loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING A $300-million program loan from the Asian Development Bank to boost financial market regulation and intermediation in the country.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approved the request to borrow from the ADB during its meeting last Thursday, BSP sources said. The proposed program loan aims to increase the contribution of the financial sector to the country's economic development.

It was included in the ADB's Philippine Country Strategy and Program 2005-2007. The policy objectives are to enhance the public and private governance of financial sector institutions.

Based on a framework drawn up by the ADB, these institutional improvements would be augmented by an integrated set of financial sector reforms to promote diversification of the financial channels and provide enhanced transparency and market efficiencies in the intermediation between the savers and investors. Market-based diversification is also seen to promote financial resilience by reducing the over-dependence of bank finance.

"Such a market-based diversification when combined with governance reform has the additional benefits through spillovers and externalities that can further increase the financial sector's contribution to economic growth and development," said an ADB paper on the program loan.

The ADB recently upgraded its domestic growth outlook for the Philippines this year to 5.4 percent from an earlier forecast of 5 percent on the back of robust export performance and farm output.

The Philippines, which posted a GDP growth of 5 percent in 2005, was seen gaining from a strong agricultural harvest as the El Niño dry spell seen last year has ended as well as from a healthy rebound in exports.

Lopez . . .

From page B1

pressway (NLEX) last Feb. 10, opening to the riding public 138 new lane kilometers and 295 upgraded lane kilometers.

The rehabilitated NLEX cut travel time from Balintawak to Sta. Ines (Mabalacat, Pampanga) by half, giving rise to more economic zones in Central Luzon such as First Clarkway Industry Park in Pampanga, Hermosa Economic Zone in Bataan, Palayan City Agri-Industrial Center in Nueva Ecija and PNOC Petrochemical Industrial Estate II in Mariveles, Bataan.

Meanwhile, Benpres is currently trying to repay its $400 million in debt over the next 10 years through a series of asset sales and dividends of its core subsidiaries.

Lopez said Benpres wanted to reduce its debt this year or early next year through the sale of interests in MNTC, Rockwell Land Corp. and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Benpres expects to retire $140 million from the possible sale or swap of shares in FPIDC and in Digitel.

Benpres is also willing to sell its 24.5-percent stake in Rockwell Land.

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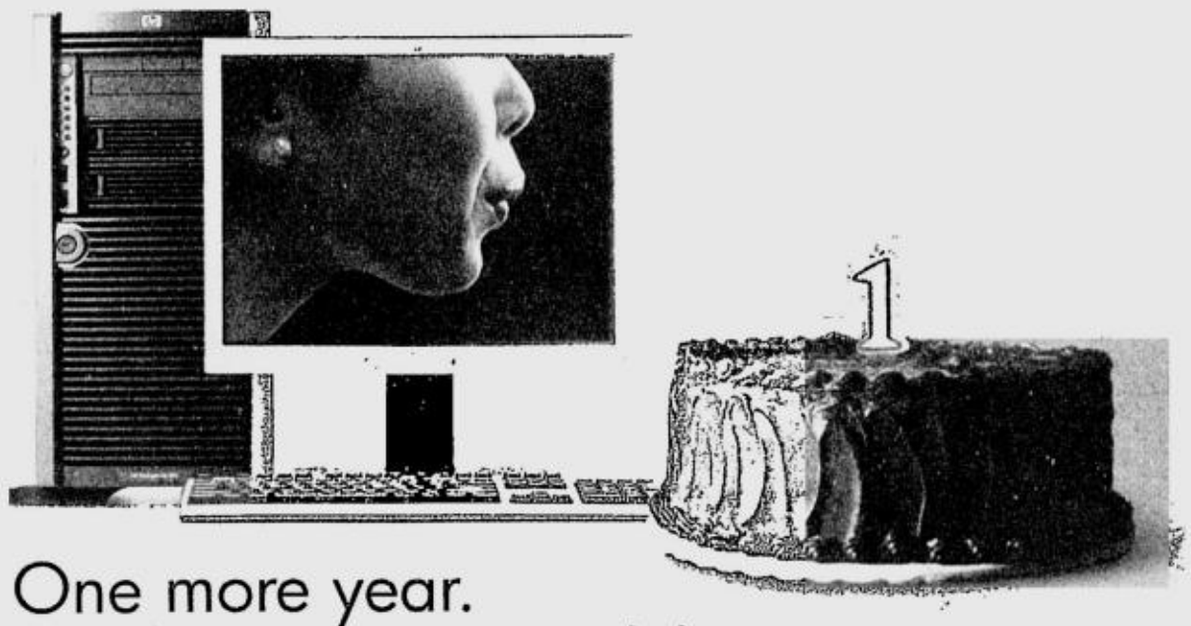

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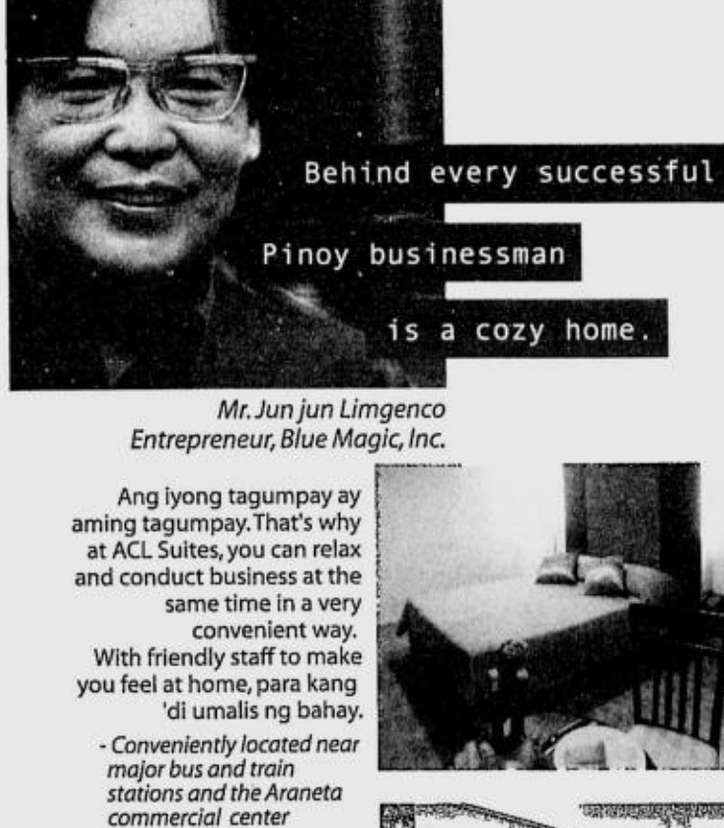

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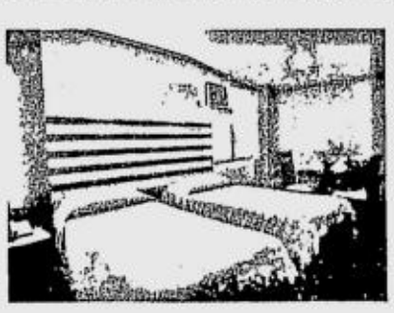

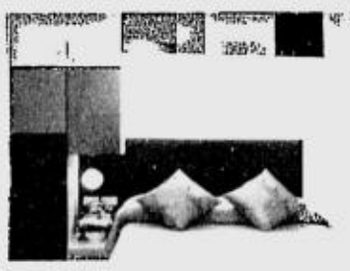

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as of September 29, 2006

SELLING		BUYING	
ALABANG A	PLS. CALL	ALABANG A	1.0M
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	440K	ALABANG B	1.2M
CLUB PUNTA FUEGO	400K	CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB B	40K
COUNTRY CLUB@TAGAYTAY	320K	CAMP JOHN HAY	280K
EAGLERIDGE B	280K	CLUB PUNTA FUEGO	300K
EAGLERIDGE C	330K	COUNTRY CLUB@ TAGAYTAY	300K
FOREST HILLS B	180K	EAGLERIDGE B	PLS. CALL
LUISITA GOLF	300K	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	160K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	200K	MANILA GOLF CORP.	12.5M
MANILA GOLF CORP.	13.0M	MANILA GOLF IND.	PLS. CALL
MANILA POLO CLUB	PLS. CALL	MANILA POLO CLUB	2.5M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	310K	MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	530K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	650K	MANILA YACHT CLUB	200K
MANILA YACHT CLUB	300K	MIMOSA C-3	550K
METROPOLITAN CLUB	150K	ORCHARD A	160K
MT. MALARAYAT C	400K	SHERWOOD HILLS B	70K
ORCHARD B	350K	SPA & LODGE	450K
ORCHARD C	400K	STA. ELENA A	1.2M
ROYALE TAGAYTAY C	100K	STA. ELENA B	1.5M
SPA & LODGE	500K	THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB	400K
VALLE VERDE	100K	VALLE VERDE	85K
WACK WACK	PLS. CALL	WACK WACK	6.2M

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GGCA Club Shares
SEC License Broker # 00131 • As of October 2, 2006

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,050,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,050,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	500,000	450,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	45,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,700,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	80,000
Eaglerdge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	190,000	120,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	210,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	220,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	3,000,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	310,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	Please Call
Manila Yacht Club	280,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	160,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	650,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	180,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	125,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,400,000	1,150,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,150,000	1,800,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	620,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Valley Golf	230,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,200,000

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Lower borrowings cut money supply growth

Aug. net lending to gov't down 7.8% in '06

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOWER PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWINGS helped trim the year-on-year growth in domestic liquidity or m3 to 12.4 percent in August from 13.2 percent in July, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported on Friday.

On a month-on-month basis, however, m3 rose marginally by 0.6 percent from negative 0.4 percent in July.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

"The slowdown in the growth of domestic liquidity may be traced in part to the decline in credit to the public sector as a result of the improved fiscal performance—even as liquidity continued to grow, driven by strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers," the BSP said.

In particular, net lending to the national government declined by 7.8 percent from a 3-percent growth in July.

In addition, growth in credit to the private sector slowed down to 0.4 percent from 0.5 percent in July.

The OFW inflows allowed the BSP and the banks to build up their foreign assets and reduce their foreign liabilities.

Recent studies indicate that favorable global demographics would likely sustain strong OFW remittances to the country in the years to come. In turn, remittances were making the Philippine economy more resilient to shocks that could otherwise affect growth, inflation, external accounts and employment.

However, OFW inflows tend to prop up domestic liquidity when local recipients start converting the remittances into pesos.

The BSP has vowed to closely monitor the level of domestic liquidity to ensure that it remains consistent with its price stability objective. At the same time, it provides an appropriate environment for credit and growth.

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,050,000/1,200,000*	-
Alta Vista G/Corp *	-	Pls. Call/200,000*
Baguio Country Club	500,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	250,000
Canyon Woods	100,000	-
Capitol Hills	45,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eaglerdge A/B*/C**	300,000*/300,000**	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	100,000/150,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,500,000
Manila Polo	2,900,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	210,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/550,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	100,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**	160,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/190,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,250,000	1,800,000*
Subic Golf	190,000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/180,000*	-
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

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Fast-food giant directly acquires Delifrance stake

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FAST-FOOD GIANT JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP. (JFC) has bought an additional 50 percent stake in Baker Fresh Foods Philippines Inc. (BFFPI), the local franchisee of Delifrance, a French café and bakery chain.

In a disclosure, Jollibee said it acquired the 50 percent held by its joint venture partner Delifrance Asia Ltd. (DAL) in BFFPI.

BFFPI holds the exclusive franchise to operate Delifrance outlets in the country.

With the acquisition, BFFPI has become a wholly owned subsidiary of JFC.

Before the acquisition, JFC and DAL each owned 50 percent in BFFPI.

The purchase will be done by converting into equity the advances made by JFC and DAL to BFFPI worth P130 million.

The purchase of the 50-percent stake in BFFPI was made "for a consideration of Singapore $1."

BFFPI has no debt. It will continue to pay royalty on the sales of Delifrance outlets in the Philippines to DAL since it continues to be a franchisee of DAL.

JFC chair Tony Tan Caktiong said that the fast-food company was encouraged by the sales growth of the Delifrance business in the Philippines.

"Delifrance is a good brand, and its sales in the Philippines has been growing remarkably in the past 24 months," Tan Caktiong said.

JFC chief finance officer Ysmael Baysa said the restructuring of the business from a joint venture to pure franchising meets the objectives of both JFC and DAL.

In 2005, BFFPI generated system-wide sales—a measure of all sales to consumers both from company-owned and franchised stores—of P392 million, or a growth of 31.7 percent from P297 million in 2004. For the first six months, BFFPI recorded system-wide sales of P198 million—higher by 8.8 percent over the same period in 2005.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 27, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.7	87,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	40	38.5	40	951,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59	58.5	58.5	1,993,200
China Banking Corp.	690	690	685	685	2,320
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	15,030,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75.5	76	75	75.5	6,122,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41	40	41	514,600
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33	33	7,700
Phil. Savings Bank	43	43	43	43	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	20,500
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	51.5	51	51.5	200,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	45	44.5	45	12,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.8	232,000
First Abacus Financial	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1635	1635	1610	1610	380
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.08	1,450,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2085	2065	2085	1,280
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	865,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	49	49	765,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	50	49.5	50	2,003,300
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	67,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	464,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.1	9	9	636,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.15	3,021,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	350,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	12,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.5	22.75	84,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36	35	35.5	161,200
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	9,000
RFM Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.89	920,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	51,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	55,100
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	76	74.5	76	165,100
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	18,218,600
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,000,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.82	2,495,000
Holcim Philippines, Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.9	637,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	18,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	26,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4	4.2	3.9	4.05	3,492,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.58	0.59	141,200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	5,980,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	47,000,000
Ayala Corp.	475	477.5	472.5	475	267,730
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	295,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	22,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.04	2,233,000
APC Group Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	590,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.93	650,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.15	3.15	242,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	8,999,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	3,863,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	2,144,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.28	1.36	1.28	1.32	2,109,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	2,820,000
Keppel Holdings	1	1	1	1	30,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.22	1,562,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,800,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	2,060,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	800,000
Synophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,700,000
SM Investments Corp.	248	250	247	250	329,300
South China Resources Inc.	0.94	0.98	0.93	0.98	520,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	15,348,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,493,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1	1.02	0.99	1.02	500,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.2	1.48	1.2	1.48	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	6,300,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.55	0.51	0.54	53,280,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.98	1.1	0.98	1.06	1,360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.64	1.56	1.64	48,786,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	40,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	15,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	6,240,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.72	0.55	0.7	14,030,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.92	76,865,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	781,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	310,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	1,216,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.4	3,119,000
Unirwide Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,300,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	69,900
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	1,470,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1075	1085	1075	1080	38,500
Philpino Tel. Corp.	46	46.5	46	46.5	5,602,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2255	2275	2255	2270	430,690
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	400,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	77,000
Ipvg Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,050,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	6,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.2	186,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	240,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	25,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	750,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	12,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.5	17	16.5	16.75	502,200
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	2,100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	4,058,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople, Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	5,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.06	2.06	2,620,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	639,300
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.2	6.4	5.9	6	2,795,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.4	6.4	5.9	6.1	1,100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	60,700,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.2	362,000
Benguet Corp. A	10.75	10.75	10	10	69,200
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.26	0.24	0.245	7,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	8,580,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	68,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	63,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	283,300,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	4,719,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	20.5	18.75	20.5	255,700
Vulcan Ind'l	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	370,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.3	19,590,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	58,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1	0.98	1	1,070,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1	1.02	1	1	550,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	12	12	12	12	8,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.7	10.25	9.7	10	130,000

CURRENCIES

October 27, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788084	1.000000	50.3870
Japan	Yen	0.006729	0.008538	0.4302
United Kingdom	Pound	1.492553	1.893900	95.4279
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101205	0.128419	6.4706
Switzerland	Franc	0.633814	0.804246	40.5235
Canada	Dollar	0.707563	0.897827	45.2388
Singapore	Dollar	0.495869	0.629208	31.7039
Australia	Dollar	0.592233	0.751484	37.8650
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.090575	2.652731	133.6632
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210151	0.266660	13.4362
Brunei	Dollar	0.494314	0.627235	31.6045
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021016	0.026667	1.3437
UAE	Dirham	0.214579	0.272279	13.7193
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.268900	63.9361
Argentina	Peso	0.254221	0.322581	16.2539
Brazil	Real	0.357814	0.454030	22.8772
India	Rupee	0.017218	0.021848	1.1009
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214212	0.271813	13.6958
Mexico	New Peso	0.071549	0.090789	4.5746
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525109	0.666311	33.5734
South Africa	Rand	0.102934	0.130613	6.5812
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.001059	0.0534
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023932	0.030367	1.5301

Upbeat trading . . .

From page B1

However, some analysts said the market has yet to fully assess the impact of last week's typhoon Milenyo—which interrupted financial markets Thursday and Friday—on agriculture, infrastructure and access to fuel that, in turn, could put pressure on inflation.

Higher inflation bloats operating costs and impact on the profitability of many listed firms.

2TradeAsia.com said some investors might watch whether the government would set aside emergency funds following the damage to the metropolis caused by Milenyo. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

ANDAYA

8-month gov't spending hits P83.2B

Agencies unable to use funds fully due to tough procurement rules

By Michelle V. Remo

GOVERNMENT SPENDING IN THE first eight months of the year amounted to only P83.2 billion, or P63 billion short of the P146.2 billion programmed for the period.

This means the government was not able to achieve its goal of maximizing spending limits under the 2006 budget to pump prime the economy.

The lower-than-programmed spending, however, boosts the government's chances of further reducing the budget deficit this year to less than the original ceiling of target. Last year's deficit stood at P146.8 billion.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the lower-than-programmed spending was due to the inability of line agencies to use the funds that had been allocated to them because of tedious procurement process. He, however, was quick to add that this problem was already being addressed.

Line agencies were directed to adopt a uniform electronic procurement process, which required agencies to do the bidding and procurement online.

To help ensure that line agencies are encouraged to spend as programmed in the future, the Department of Budget and Management said it would implement a performance-based budgeting system, wherein the ability of government agencies to execute their respective programs and projects would be used as basis in determining their budgets for the following year.

Andaya said having a scorecard for government agencies would help promote prudence in government spending.

Under the system, which is scheduled for implementation next year, each government agency will be asked to implement three or four major projects and programs consistent with their mandates. The DBM will come up with performance indicators to be used in the evaluation of the spending efficiency of government agencies.

The department wants to determine specifically the ability of government agencies to maximize the use of the funds they get and to ensure that their projects helped in attaining their goals.

GSIS: Huge sums for public relations

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INsurance System (GSIS) spends huge sums for public relations every year. Downloading from the website of the Commission on Audit (COA), I got the following figures for PR expenses of the GSIS: P144.23 million in 2003 and P151.9 million in 2004. These staggering sums were collected from government employees, many of whom are minimum wage earners.

COA's website did not show comparative figures for 2005. The 2005 audit is probably still going on.

I asked my *compadre* Charlie Agatep, one of the best PR practitioners in the country, "Just what is public relations?" What follow are snatches from an article he wrote for the INQUIRER about a year ago.

"The late Pete Teodoro of Philprom and Joe Carpio of San Miguel Corp. defined public relations as 'doing good and telling the public about it.' This fundamental truth about what PR is, and what PR does, has been the basis of legitimate PR practice. PR is making significant contributions to our democratic society by embracing what Thomas Jefferson described as the 'engineering of public consent.'

"Edward L. Bernays, the acknowledged father of public relations, described a PR consultant as a social scientist who advises a client on the attitudes and actions he must take in order to appeal to the public it serves. Bernays suggested that the PR consultant ascertains through research how the public perceives the client, then advises what action programs the client must undertake to earn public acceptance.

"In my years in the PR profession, my guiding principle has been to help individuals and organizations tell their stories well. Stories about their social responsibility projects that improve the quality of life. Or about their contributions to make the world a better place to live in.

"Communications is the tool of the public relations consultant. And it is through communications that we, PR practitioners must try and protect our honorable profession from being stripped of the legitimacy by incompetents who masquerade as PR consultants.

"Public relations is a profession of great social impact. Practitioners heavily influence the channels of communication and should therefore be held responsible and accountable for the attitudes and behavior of the publics they are constantly trying to reach."

What are the publics the GSIS must reach out to? There are 1,500,000 government employees. They are captive clients because membership is, by law, compulsory. Then there are 200,000 retirees. These numbers are not too impressive.

To communicate with the members, the GSIS has a weekly one-hour TV show. I guess there is a parallel radio program. Then, there is the scholarship program. There must be other programs I don't know about. Finally, there are the print ads.

But, how could the GSIS have spent over P151 million in 2004 for public relations? And who is the PR consultant advising the GSIS?

I estimate that the total budget for public relations of the entire private sector insurance industry (34 life and 94 non-life companies) is nowhere near P151 million in one year. And yet, private insurance business is the most competitive enterprise ever invented by man, as opposed to the strict monopoly that the GSIS is.

Unfortunately, the COA report does not break down the P151 million. But graft and corruption stink to high heaven.

IBM raises ante in RP, increases talent pool

By Riza T. Olchondra

IBM INC. HAS GROWN ITS GLOBal delivery talent pool in the Philippines from 600 in the beginning of 2005 to almost 3,000 employees this month.

Randy Walker, IBM's general manager for managed business process services, told the INQUIRER that IBM sees the Philippines as a key staffing source because of the unique combination of technical, communication and mentoring abilities among Filipino professionals.

The 3,000-strong Philippine workforce under IBM is spread across its three subsidiaries: IBM Solutions Inc, IBM Business Services Inc. and IBM Daksh Philippines Inc.

IBM delivery centers in the Philippines form a key part of IBM's global network of more than three dozen Business Transformation Outsourcing (BTO) centers, delivering multilingual specialized services to transform and manage financial, accounting and human resources processes for clients across the Asia-Pacific, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Walker said that most workforce markets are strong in either technical or communication capabilities, but the Philippines is one of the few countries where both skill sets are readily available.

He added that this so-called X-factor would be the key driver that would the country into a hub of premium business services—an arena that calls for a kind of training more sophisticated than call center work.

The call center industry is currently the main growth driver in the country's business services industry.

However, Walker said, strategy-intensive services for global companies' financial, human resource, customer relations, and supply chain management needs have become the most lucrative and fast-growing areas in the industry.

Walker attributed the change in growth area to globalization and the resulting need for multinational companies to maximize workforce investment by tapping the people with the right skill sets, even if it means setting up separate specialized departments in various countries.

No Free Lunch

From page B4

theme "Economic and Political Trends and Imperatives: Looking to the Long Haul." Apart from the regular briefings from the Ateneo Economics and Political Science Departments, special guest will be environmentalist Atty. Antonio La Viña, new Dean of the Ateneo School of Government. It will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 8:00-12:00 in the morning at the Veritas Room, Ateneo Rockwell campus. For details and reservations, please contact Maribelle Alba at 920-6921 or 0917-843-2355, or e-mail at belle@adbm.net.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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Philamlife Equity Fund	1.3362	1.3473

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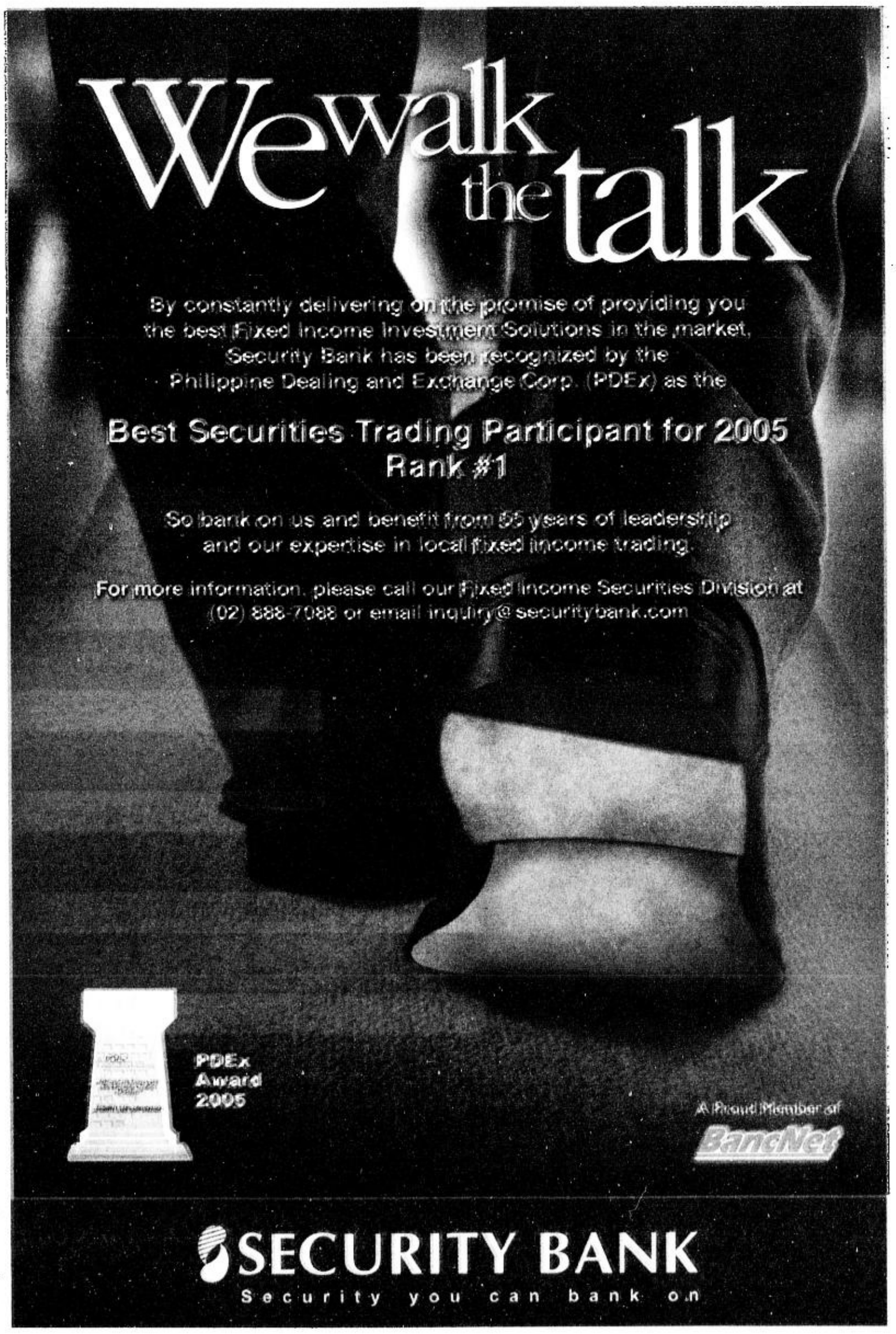

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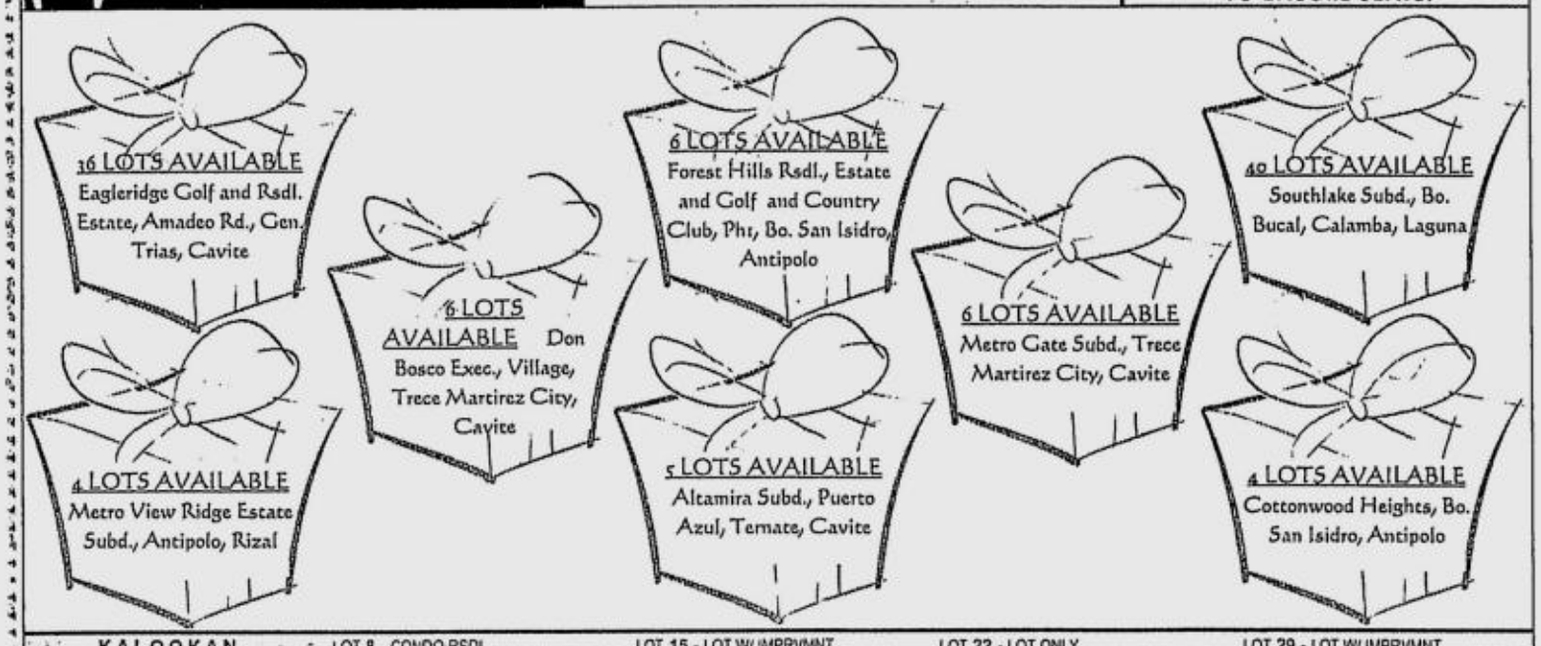

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LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 290 sqm.
No. 8 Humabon St., Urdaja Village, Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price: 725,000

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
L4/B22-A Road Lot 46, Congress Village, Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price 800,000

MALABON CITY

LOT 3 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 8,318 sqm.
Floor Area: 6,135 sqm.
No. 3 Bustamante St. Brgy. Calmon
Minimum Bid Price 42,600,000

MANILA

LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area. 1,373 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,914 sqm.
No 1447 Leroy St, Paco Manila
Minimum Bid Price 21,000,000

PARANAQUE CITY

LOT 5 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 164.62 sqm.
(w/ parking), Unit 1703 Pacific Coast Condo Project, Coastal Road Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000

LOT 6 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 164.62 sqm.
(w/ parking), Unit 1903 Pacific Coast Condo. Project, Coastal Road. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000

LOT 7 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 167.09 sqm.
(w/ parking), Unit 1604, Pacific Coast Condo Project, Coastal Road. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000

LOT 8 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 356.61 sqm.
(w/ parking), Unit 26-B Cleveland Tower Condominium, E. Aguinaldo Blvd., Asia World City
Minimum Bid Price 10,000,000

LOT 9 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 324 sqm.
Floor Area 241 sqm.
No 8613 Diamante cor Esmeralda Sts., Marcelo Green Village, Phase 4
Minimum Bid Price 2,200,000

PASAY

LOT 10
WITHDRAWN

LOT 11 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 701 sqm.
Floor Area 484 sqm.
No. 159 Cuneta Ave. cor P. Celle St
Minimum Bid Price 16,000,000

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,527.96 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,348 sqm.
No 160 Cuneta Ave
Minimum Bid Price 29,000,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 13 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 381 sqm.
Floor Area 206 sqm.
No. 45 East Riverside St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 2,400,000

LOT 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 450 sqm.
Floor Area 90 sqm.
No. 6 Pittsburgh St., Brgy. Silangan, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000

LOT 15 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,125 sqm.
Floor Area: n/a
No 191 Katipunan Avenue Quirino District
Minimum Bid Price 21,000,000

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 16 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,728 sqm.
Floor Area: 100 sqm.
Lot 6-B-4-B-2, Coloong Road I, Brgy. Coloong
Minimum Bid Price 2,400,000

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 9,037 sqm.
No 3 San Andres Canumay
Minimum Bid Price 18,980,000

LOT 18 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 4,835 sqm.
Floor Area: 7,990.5 sqm.
Int. M. Gregorio St., Bagong Filipino Compound, Bgy. Canumay
Minimum Bid Price 29,700,000

RIZAL

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 600 sqm.
Floor Area. 103.5 sqm.
Lot 5-C-2 Unnamed Rd. Sn. Juan Taytay
Minimum Bid Price 1,800,000

PROVINCIAL

BATANGAS

LOT 20 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 435 sqm.
Floor Area: n/a
Along J. Zuno St., Poblacion E., Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 3,700,000

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Along J. Zuno St., Poblacion E. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 1,000,000

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 19,195 sqm.
Int. J. P. Laurel Provincial Road (Talisay-Tananuan Road), Km. 71, Bo. Talaga, Tanauan
Minimum Bid Price 6,500,000

LOT 23 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 294 sqm.
Floor Area. 406.62 sqm.
Along D. Silang St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 3,700,000

CAVITE

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 17,830 sqm.
Lot 2, New Cavite Ind'l. City,Bo. Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Minimum Bid Price 29,680,000

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 465 sqm.
L21/B2, Grand Cypress Road, Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price 1,800,000

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 971 sqm.
L3/B7, Ph. III. Southwoods Avenue, Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price 3,800,000

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 325 sqm.
L13/B31, Brgy. Quintana, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price 455,000

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
L15/B31, Brgy. Quintana, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price 420,000

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,033 sqm.
Floor Area: 259 sqm.
No 122 J. P. Rizal St., Silang
Minimum Bid Price 6,600,000

LAGUNA

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 324 sqm.
Floor Area. 297 sqm.
No. 8 Ortega St., San Vicente San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 1,140,000

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 210 sqm.
No 157 Country Drive St., Country Homes Subd., Barrio Soro-Soro, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price 1,065,000

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 665 sqm.
Floor Area: 658.5 sqm.
Lot 9 Quezon St, Poblacion, Cabuyao Laguna
Minimum Bid Price 4,189,500

LOT 33 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 4,395 sqm.
Floor Area: 250 sqm.
No. 386 (Old-No 4599) Palimbao Road, Brgy. Palimbao, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 381 sqm.
Lot 1, Bo. San Roque, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price 342,900

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 17775-C, Bo. San Roque, San Pablo City
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF VARIOUS SUBSTATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEW 50MVA SAN FRANCISCO SUBSTATION

PB060817-LE0121/PR NO. 6MTP-06-000027755 (6MTP-06-060)

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of *PhP 6,294,920.00, PhP 3,620,000.00 and PhP 6,148,096.00 for Schedules I, II and III respectively* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *PB060817-LE0121 / PR NO. 6MTP-06-000027755 (6MTP-06-060), Sch. I – Supply and Delivery of Telecommunication Equipment, Sch. II – Supply and Delivery of Station Battery and Charger and Sch III – Supply and Delivery of Standby Diesel Generator.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Award shall be on a lot basis.
2. The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for *Sch. I – Supply and Delivery of Telecommunication Equipment, Sch. II – Supply and Delivery of Station Battery and Charger and Sch. III –Supply and Delivery of Standby Diesel Generator.* Delivery of the GOODS is required within **forty-five (45) calendar days.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from *September 28, 2006 to October 23, 2006* from *9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.* and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Php 2,000.00.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 10, 2006 / 10:00 AM* at the address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *October 24, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) of ABC
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%) of ABC
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2-1/2%) of ABC
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) of ABC

7. Bid opening shall be on *October 24, 2006 / 2:00 PM* at the *Admin Conference Room same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave., corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812205 / (632) 9812241
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(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 27 & October 2, 2006)

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Big Apple vacation

PHILAM SAVINGS BANK, THE CONsumer banking arm of American International Group Inc (AIG) in the Philippines, is gearing up for the 2nd raffle draw of its Big Apple promo.

To qualify for the promo, you need only to increase your average balance for each raffle period by P5,000 for savings and checking accounts, or your investments by P50,000 for fixed term accounts. Electronic coupons will be automatically generated at the end of each raffle period. You can also get welcome gift certificates from Rustan's, Abenson, Samsonite and Yellow Cab Pizza for every qualified deposit you make.

You can easily open a Philam Saver or Philam Check account for only P5,000. Both products come with free personal accident insurance cover worth 10 times of your ADB or up to P3 million. If you want larger interest earnings, you may open a Philam Saver Plus for P20,000 or a Philam Check Plus for P50,000. Philam Saver Plus depositors are also entitled to free personal accident insurance coverage two times your ADB up to P3 million.

On Nov. 23, one depositor will get a chance to fly to New York City for a six-day, five-night stay for two in the posh Waldorf Astoria Hotel, plus two Broadway tickets and $1,000 pocket money. All prizes are tax-paid.

OBITUARIES

FE TRINIDAD CABALLERO

of Kamuning, Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 30, 2006 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved sisters; **Angela** (†), **Lydia Grey**, **Salud Orate** (†), **Rufina**, **Josefina** and **Zenaida Natividad**; brother-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul and to remember her always in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be a requiem mass at 10 a.m. on October 4, 2006 at the Sacred Heart Parish Church in Kamuning, Quezon City. Interment immediately follows at Himlayang Pilipino.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

COL. JOSE RIZAL D. DUMLAO (Ret.)

PMA Class of 1951

Has gone to his eternal rest in the peace of our Lord on September 30, 2006 at the age of 77.
His beloved wife Rosario Gaerlan-Dumlao, children and grandchildren

JD
Alan & Winnie, Stephanie, Mico, John
Peter & Ayee, Kimmy, Karen, Paul
Don & Theresa, Bianca, Kyle
Paul (†)
Rosana & Jinggie Alano, Pau
Marc & Anna, Miggy
Chuck & Donna, Ryann

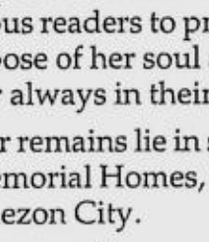
Brothers & sister, nephews & nieces, other relatives and friends request prayers for his everlasting joy in the company of the angels and the saints.

His body lies in state at chapel-1 & 2, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment has been moved to Thursday, October 5, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

Message of Thanks

We, the children, **Jorge, Rene, Cesar, Juan Jr.** and **Ma. Joy**, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren of



EDITA VERGARA SARMIENTO

of Baras, Catanduanes

who died on September 5, 2006

wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of you, our relatives, friends and colleagues, who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, Mass cards, messages of sympathy and other forms of support during our time of great sorrow.

DEATH NOTICE

JAIME AGUILAR BUTIAL

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 29, 2006 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will be on October 7, 2006, 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park.

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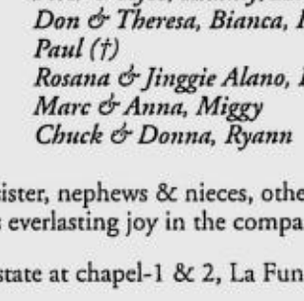
Message of Thanks



We, the family of the late

LORNA HENEDINA ANTONIO NATIVIDAD

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 24, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Holy Mass, prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and in some way or another condoled with us and expressed their love, concern and support during our time of great loss and sorrow.

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Mid-Autumn Festival

THE RENAISSANCE Makati City Hotel, Manila's (formerly New World Renaissance Hotel) premier Cantonese restaurant Emperor Court, is celebrating the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival lavishly and in high style until Oct. 6.

Mooncakes

Elegant boxes of freshly made mooncake varieties, perfect for gift-giving, are offered at the hotel's grand lobby from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and at Emperor Court. The Moonlight Garden gift box includes four white lotus seed puree with double salted yolk mooncakes at P1,188 per box, while the Moonlight Pavilion box includes an assortment of mini mooncakes (lotus seed puree with single salted egg yolk, red bean puree, coconut meat and taro puree) partnered with a bottle of fine Antares Sta. Carolina wine from Cab Sau, Chile at P 1,288 per box. As an added incentive, for every box of mooncakes purchased, a voucher worth P200 will be given which can be used for lunch or dinner at Emperor Court until Dec. 31.

Antique furniture

Furthermore, a tasteful display of antique Chinese furniture by Noble House Antiques and a traditional Chinese tea ceremony and service will be held at the lobby from 8 a m. to 9 p.m. daily.

To cap things off, a Mid-Autumn dinner menu with 33 different palate-pleasing selections prepared by the Hotel's Chinese master chef Jackie Fong and his brigade of expert chefs will be offered on the night of Oct. 6 at P1,188+++ per person.

Mid-Autumn dinner price is subject to prevailing VAT, local government tax, and service charge. For orders and reservations, call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila at 811-6888.

More Classified Ads

Department of Transportation and Communication A22
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LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF 1ST AND 2ND QUARTER REQUIREMENTS FOR CY 2007 REFLECTIVE SHEETING MATERIALS WITH LTO SECURITY IMAGES FOR USE IN THE PRODUCTION OF MV LICENSE PLATES INCLUDING BONDING TO ALUMINUM SUBSTRATE/SHEETS

The Land Transportation Office, through General Fund (Fund 101) intends to apply the sum of Twenty Two Million Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six and 6/100 (P22,671,356.06) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the procurement of 1st and 2nd Quarter Requirements for CY 2007 Reflective Sheeting Materials with LTO Security Images for use in the Production of MV License Plates including Bonding to Aluminum Substrate/ Sheets. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 5, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 ½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan – Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 – telefax

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC-Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 19 & Oct. 2, 2006)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
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Tel. 632-4217, 632-5153, 632-4444; Fax No. 636-2577
Email: **fpalabrica@adb.org** or **esdeleon@adb.org**

INVITATION to PRE-QUALIFY and BID for the PROVISION of IT SERVICE DESK OPERATIONS (Contract No. ADB/OAS-2006/049)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding for the provision of IT Service Desk Operations.
2. The Contractor shall provide IT Service Desk Operations that will act as the Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) of ADB Staff's Information Technology (IT) related inquiries, problems and technical assistance requests. The IT Service Desk Operations contract will be administered by the Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) and will be composed of Client Help Desk, On-Site Support and Asset Monitoring. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Prequalification documents can be obtained from Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAIS-PC), Room 1636 South, at the above address, from 5 to 9 October 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For inquiries, you may contact Eric de Leon at the above telephone/fax numbers or e-mail address.
4. Invitation to bid will be issued to pre-qualified applicant who pass the prequalification criteria and evaluated as pre-qualified by considering the evaluation criteria, which will be verified by site inspections, if necessary.
5. Only pre-qualified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

(Sgd.) CECILE L.H.F. GREGORY
Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
ADB

(PDI – October 2 & 3, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Olongapo
-0-
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Services Office, 2/F City Hall Complex
Tel. / Fax No. 047-222-2699
Web: www.olongapocity.gov.ph
Email: Olongapo@piol.net

September 19, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Olongapo through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors to apply for the eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: Janitorial Services for Various City Government Buildings as follows:

Lot No.	Location	No. of Personnel
1	James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital	20
2	Olongapo City Hall	4
3	Gordon College	7
4	Olongapo Convention Center	5
5	Olongapo City Mall	11
6	Olongapo City Museum	2
7	City Hall Annex	2
	Total	51

Contract No. OC-104-CMO-016-06 GD
Brief Description Janitorial Services
Approved Budget Php 6,662,159.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
Sept. 22, 2006 to Oct. 14, 2006	Posted at PhilGEPS Website & Conspicuous Places/Newspaper of Nationwide Publication	BAC Secretariat 2/F Gen. Services Office, Olongapo City Hall
Oct. 06, 2006 to Oct. 12, 2006	Issuance of Bid Documents upon payment of non-refundable bid form fee of P15,000.00, 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. from the BAC Secretariat	
Oct. 13, 2006	Pre-Bidding Conference at 10:30 a.m.	
Oct. 25, 2006	Opening of Bids at 3.00 p.m.	
Oct. 26, 2006	Bid Evaluation	
Oct. 27, 2006	Post Qualification	
Oct. 30, 2006	Notice of Award	

The BAC reserves the right to accept and reject any bid and to cancel all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City Government without thereby incurring any liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and obligation to inform the bidder(s) of the ground(s) for the basis of BAC's action.

(Sgd.) MERLITO J. MAJARUCON
Head, BAC Secretariat

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ANGELITO R. OROZCO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 25 & Oct. 2, 2006)

A message of concern from:

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Bacolod – Regie Ilustre, (034) 433-4788; 709-8188
Davao – Ronie Collado, (082) 221-3315 to 16
Cagayan de Oro – Mar Gamotin, (088) 856-4536

Seaboard Centre, 103 Esteban St. Legaspi Village, Makati City, 1229 Philippines
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
for the
INTEGRATED TREASURY SYSTEM (ITS) PROJECT

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) is conducting a two-stage public bidding procedure for the procurement of an **Integrated Treasury System (ITS).**

The primary purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of a fully integrated, Straight-Through Processing (STP), Real-time and "commercial-off-the-shelf" ITS solution for Front, Middle and Back Office which includes the following components:

- Software application, licenses and other software components (DBMS; APIs; connectors; middlewares; etc.)
- Web-based and Internet enabled for remote access by Branches
- Various technical and development tools

The proposed system should be compliant to IFRS (IAS39) and Basel II among others and be capable to interface with various external systems (Bloomberg, Reuters, SWIFT, etc.) and internal systems (e.g. Deposits, Financial Management System, Data Warehouse, etc.). The proposed solution should also be compatible with the LBP Database Architecture and Operating System.

To ensure the highest degree of fit of the ITS solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope likewise covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities like change management planning and communication, the review of ***"As Is"*** processess, business process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the ***"To Be"*** processess, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the required organizational and process changes.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and process such as data conversion, systems integration, project management, system development lifecycle, change management, technology transfer (training and documentation), and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the system has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the effectiveness of the system.

This is a procurement for **Consulting Services and subject to Public Bidding and Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (85% Technical and 15% Financial).**

Interested parties may secure the Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Nine Thousand Pesos (P9,000.00) and upon signing of a Confidentiality Agreement**, from **02 October** to **13 October 2006**, during regular office hours (between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.), from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone : +63 2 405-7123
Fax Number : +63 2 528-8588
Contact Person : Alan V. Bornas
Head - Technology Management Group
Email Address : itbac@mail.landbank.com

The Letter of Intent, the accomplished Evaluation Forms for short-listing (List of Projects, Project Team Information, and Major Requirements Checklist) and the rest of the Eligibility Requirements must be submitted by hand on **16 October 2006, 3:00 p.m.**, to the aforementioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check shall be considered for short-listing.

The IT-BAC shall draw up a short-list of firms from those who have been determined as eligible, and the number of short-listed firms shall not exceed three (3), in accordance with the following criteria:

- Vendor Experience, Expertise and Capability
- Project Team Qualifications
- Financial Stability
- Support Service Location

The short-listed bidders, upon receipt of formal notice, may secure the Bidding Documents (e.g. Request For Proposal, etc.) from **07 to 09 November 2006**. For all qualified parties, the Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on **10 November 2006 (Friday), 10:00 a.m.**, at the aforementioned address.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **Forty Five Million Pesos (PHP 45,000,000.00), inclusive of all taxes,** which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JOSE C. NOGRALES
EVP/Chairman, IT-BAC

(PDI–Oct. 2 & 9, 2006)

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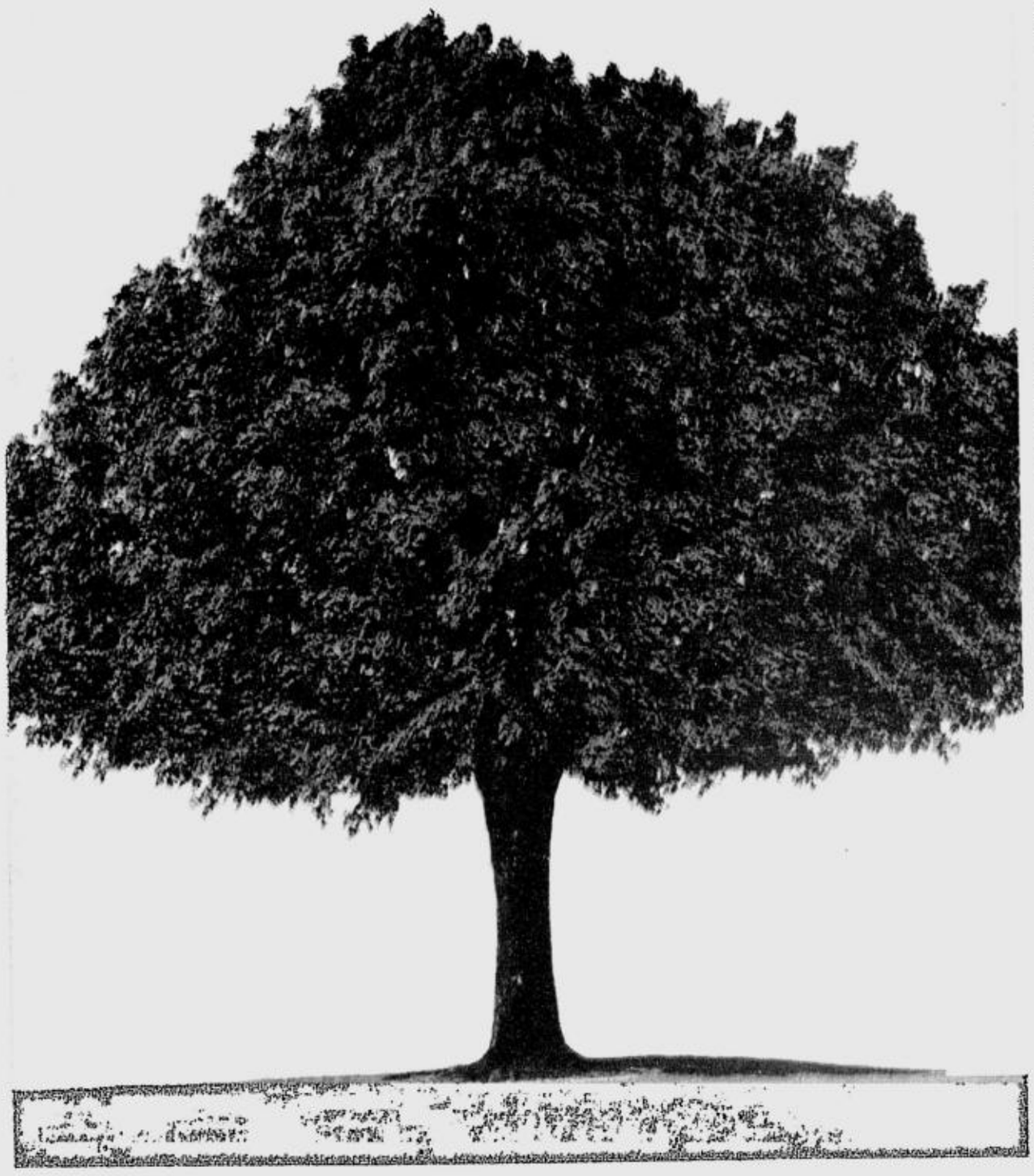

BUSINESS

BIR offers to drop cases vs tax cheats

Agency scrambles to meet target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE HAS issued a regulation that may lead to the dropping of court cases against tax delinquents and a reduction in their liabilities.

According to Revenue Regulation No. 15-2006, cases against tax delinquents, including those with pending cases with the Department of Justice, the Court of Appeals, the Court of Tax Appeals and the Supreme Court, may be dropped if they agree to enter into a compromise with the BIR.

Those with pending cases with the Presidential Commission on Good Government, however, are not covered by the compromise offer.

Those covered by the regulation will be required to only pay the basic tax, thus waiving all penalty fees, including interests and surcharges.

"(The regulation) is another step toward reducing the Bureau's accounts receivables and pending assessments," the BIR said in the regulation.

The BIR is short of its collection target by P6.1 billion as of August.

It was tasked to collect P444.1 billion in taxes for the eight-month period, but it turned in only P438 billion.

The BIR is the biggest revenue earner for the government, which is still trying to plug a gaping budget gap.

The deficit hit P146.8 billion last year and is programmed to be cut to a maximum of P125 billion this year.

The BIR earlier said it had agreed to enter into a compromise over 200 cases of tax delinquency, in a bid to immediately collect taxes.

With the issuance of Revenue Regulation 15-2006, the BIR said it was willing to extend the compromise offer to all delinquents interested.

The strategy of entering into compromise settlements is a shift from the previous policy of running after tax evaders and taking them to court.

PRU Life eyes bancassurance

By Doris C. Dumlao

INSURER PRU LIFE UK, THE PHILIPPINE unit of British financial giant Prudential Plc, will soon venture into bancassurance.

In a recent interview, PRU Life president Estelito Madrid said teaming up with a local bank on bancassurance was one of the ways the company was exploring to increase its market share.

Bancassurance, or the selling of life insurance products to bank clients, started in the Philippines six years ago.

"To expand our market, we have to have a bank tie-up. We'd like to have bancassurance within the next two years. If we can have it this year, we'll have it," Madrid said.

But he said it was quite difficult to go into bancassurance now because most of the country's top five banks have similar deals with other life insurance companies.

"We're now looking at second tier banks but it requires a lot of work. It requires mutual agreement between the parties," Madrid said.

He noted that bancassurance requirements in the country were very strict, allowing banks to only sell life insurance products of affiliates.

"The bank has to own 5 percent (of the company whose insurance product it is selling) and it's not easy to part 5 percent of your business if the potential is not there," Madrid said.

He said PRU Life—which pioneered the investment-linked life insurance product in the Philippines—maintains a marketing alliance with some of the foreign banks.

Madrid also said the bulk of PRU Life's sales comes from the top-income bracket.

He said the company would like to make inroads into the low- and middle-income market.

PRU Life, which entered the Philippine market 10 years ago, expanded its operations through the acquisition of All State Insurance in 2001 and ING Life in 2002.

The life insurer, which now ranks the country's fifth largest, had outpaced the industry's volume growth over the years, growing by about 25-30 percent over the last 10 years.

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INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V), Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte, invites all eligible suppliers to submit bids for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of one unit twenty (20) MVA, 69/13.2 KV power transformer.**

Bid documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Six Thousand Pesos Only (P6,000.00) starting October 6, 2006.

Pre-bid conference will be held on October 17, 2006 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at LEYECO V Boardroom, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City.

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on November 7, 2006 at 1:30 in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOVENAL R. ALESNA
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 28 30 & Oct. 2. 2006)

BUSINESS Monday

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THE COUNTRY'S jewelry-making industry is still highly labor intensive with most jewelers still using hand-operated tools.

All that glitters is gold

Ways to improve the Philippine jewelry industry

By Eduardo A. Morató Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

THE PHILIPPINES STILL ranks as the 16th largest gold-producing country in the world, having fallen from the sixth position once upon a glorious time.

The country mined about 34 tons of gold, or a mere 8 percent of the world's total yield of 2,606 tons (Gold Survey, 2002). South Africa led with 394 tons, followed by the United States (335 tons), Australia (285 tons) and Indonesia (183 tons). The Philippines reaped P14.4 billion from its gold production.

While gold has lost its luster as currency, it retains all the glitter as the top jewelry possession. Gold (with no stones) accounted for a fourth (24 percent) of all world jewelry sold. The runners-up are silver (no stones) with 17 percent, colored stone jewelry (18 percent), and diamond set in gold jewelry (17 percent). (Source: BOI) However, the Philippines' participation in world jewelry trade is not based on gold. Of the almost $20 million fine jewelry exported by the Philippines in 2001, the top export consisted of cultured pearls ($8 million), with silver jewelry coming next at $4.5 million. (Source: BETP)

So why is the Philippines not a very active player in the world fine jewelry market? The answer may lie in the country's 1,200 registered and unregistered gold producers, most of which are micro or small businesses.

According to the DTI, 97 percent of these firms are single proprietorships. A great number of these jewelry shops are located in Meycauayan, Bulacan, where related, ancillary and support industries are clustered. The municipality has 18 gold refiners that churn out high quality gold products. These gold refiners do not sell gold only to jewelry makers but to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as well.

Aside from gold, other raw materials such as silver and semi-precious stones find their way to Bulacan. Unclaimed jewelry from ubiquitous pawnshops wind up in the hands of Meycauayan goldsmiths.

In 1986, the Meycauayan Industry Association was established. Today, it has over 120 members representing the different components of the industry such as jewelry contractors, dealers and manufacturers along with equipment and tool suppliers, trainors and consultants.

In 1990, the MIA set up a jewelry training center, which helped increase the availability and quality of the jewelry manpower base.

Due to low volume production, the Philippine jewelry-making industry is still highly labor intensive. Most jewelers still use hand operated tools and equipment like mallets and tweezers in their production processes.

However, there are a few jewelry manufacturers that employ modern technology (e.g. casting machines and wax injectors) to achieve higher

ALL THAT/ B2-2

'You don't need a title to be a leader'

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

MY FRIEND MARK SANBORN has just released his newest book, "You Don't Need a Title to be a Leader." Below is an excerpt from this inspiring new resource on effective leadership.

Recently, the vice president of a multinational technology company I know needed someone on his team to lead a critical project. It wasn't enough to find someone who would do a good job. He needed a leader who would do a great job.

After careful thought and consideration, he approached a colleague, whom I'll call Bob, who was considered an up-and-comer. Bob had demonstrated tremendous potential. His work on previous projects had been exemplary. As past performance is one of the best indicators of future performance, the VP decided to sit down with him.

After explaining the project and what he wanted Bob to do, the VP extended an invitation to him to lead the project.

After a brief pause, Bob responded, "I assume you'll make me a director if I take this on."

His unexpected response caused the VP to pause. What were Bob's real motivations? Was he a person driven by the need to contribute, or the need to gain? Would he act in the best interest of the organization, or only himself ? After brief hesitation, the VP explained that the title change didn't go with the assignment. Furthermore, he went on, given Bob's concern, maybe Bob wasn't the right person to lead the project. The VP withdrew his offer and went back to the drawing board. After more deliberation, he came up with an alternative candidate. The person who came to mind was a woman, Gail, who had also shown great promise. Gail wasn't actually a member of his team—in fact, she acted in a freelance capacity. But the VP knew Gail's can-do attitude and strong people and problem-solving skills were what was needed. Despite her lack of an official position within the company, the VP decided to ask Gail to lead the project.

Given his experience with Bob, he approached her with some apprehension. After extending the offer, he added: "I

A LEADER'S/ B2-2

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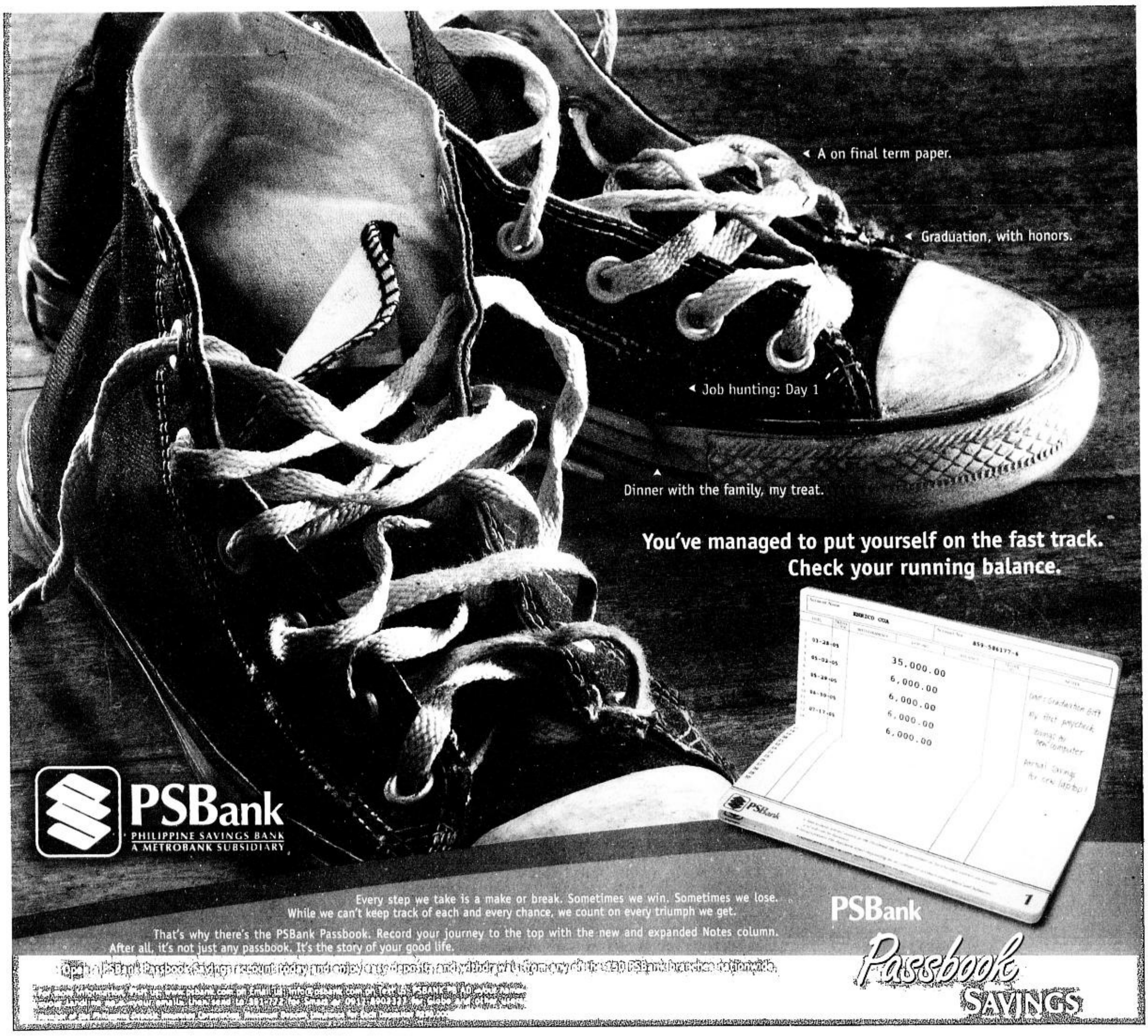

Can the Philippines be globally competitive?

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Baltazar N. Endriga

The answer is of course, an unqualified "Yes," but only if we Filipinos can get our act together.

Much has been written about the country's steady decline in the global competitiveness ranking. In one international competitiveness benchmarking after another, the Philippines' dismal downward slide is so unmistakable, it can make every patriotic Filipino cry.

In fact, it has sent not a few into fits of lamentation while more and more Filipinos have decided to migrate and leave behind a country, which they now regard as hopeless—forever mired in political conflicts, where graft and corruption has become a way of life at all levels, where basic infrastructure is so dismal that it is considered among the lowest five of 117 economies included in the 2005-2006 competitiveness ranking, where the quality of the educational system has deteriorated so badly that its schoolchildren consistently occupy the bottom three or four in every international benchmarking exam in math and science, etc. etc.

We do have our bright spots, but these are few and far between but we, as a nation, shoot ourselves in the foot when a good thing comes our way.

We have a gem of a tourist destination in Boracay but we developed it so badly that it has suffered from uncontrolled development with no coherent water/sewage/transport systems.

We had a natural advantage in our English-language capability but we frittered that away via a bilingual policy that has been implemented with abject incompetence.

We completed a modern international airport terminal but a controversy has hounded it such that it remains closed four years after completion on top of a ten-year delay in its start.

We had the best micro-finance policy in the world that had earned plaudits internationally, and our government scrapped it for still unexplained reasons, etc. etc.

Thus, it is not surprising that, once again, in the latest (2005-2006) global competitiveness report, the Philippines ranked 73rd out of 117 economies—outnumbered by all comparable Asian countries except Vietnam which ranked 74th.

Positive Developments

It is thus gratifying to note that a concerted effort is being undertaken by both the private and government sectors to seriously address the many maladies that adversely affect the country's global competitiveness.

First, the last State of the Nation address of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo focused on major infrastructure projects, which would doubtless boost our competitiveness ranking (infrastructure being a major factor that dragged us down in ranking).

Second and almost in lock-step with the President's Sona, the private sector led by former Secretary Jesus Estanislao, through the Institute for Solidarity in Asia, drew up a national Development Roadmap for the Philippines, designed to make the Philippines truly globally competitive by the year 2030.

Adopting the vision "One Nation Under God, One Community of Responsible Citizens who Deeply Love Their Country" it aims to make the country Global in outlook, Entrepreneurial in spirit, Responsible in its exercise of his citizenship role, and Ethical in all his dealings with government and fellowmen.

This effort, which has caught fire among various sectors of the Philippines has resulted in the development of a cascade of institutional roadmaps of local government units (21 cities to date and counting) GOCC's, the professions, the military (Marines, Navy, the PMA) the Church, and most importantly the Business Sector led by the Management Association of the Philippines with the cooperation of at least ten other business organizations (PCCI, Chamber of Commerce. the MBC, ECOP, PMAP, FINEX, etc.)

This effort is a testimony to the dynamism of the private sector, which has decided that regardless of what the government does or does not do, it will push aggressively an agenda that plays on what we Filipinos can do, rather than lament the negatives in our country.

Thirdly, the Management Association of the Philippines, conscious of its role in Philippine society has adopted as its theme for the year "Call to Action; Country Above Self" and in pursuance of this battle cry will hold its annual International CEO conference with a focus on "Recipes for Competitiveness".

Fourthly, as if to cap MAP's yearlong effort at crafting a Sectoral Roadmap for Business, the document, embodying the Roadmap will be formally signed in Malacañang during the summit.

This will bind the many national business organizations into a covenant for business that commits all signatories collectively and individually to carrying out the objectives, initiatives and action plans therein incorporated and under the watchful eyes of a multi-organizational monitoring team will ensure that the implementation of such a plan will be carried out in accordance with a timetable and measurable metrics.

It is under this atmosphere of cooperation, optimism, and patriotic fervor that we trust the Competitiveness Summit being conducted through President GMA's auspices will ultimately reverse the Philippines' downward competitiveness trend and give us Filipinos the national pride we seem to have lost.

The 5th MAP International CEO Conference will focus on the theme "Reversing the trend, turning the bend: Recipes for Competitiveness." Oct. 11 at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La.

The conference will be a call to business leaders to address the country's competitiveness seriously. For inquiries, call 751-1149 to 52.

(The author is Managing Director of the MAP Research and Development Foundation. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

THE PHILIPPINE Insurers Club recently gave a tribute to Reynaldo A. de Dios in recognition of his 58 years of continuous service to the insurance industry and the PIC. De Dios (left) receives the plaque from PIC president Arturo M. Brondial. De Dios is the pioneer risk management consultant in the country and is editor of Insurance Philippines Magazine.

All that glitters is gold

From page B2-1

production volumes. For the most part, it has become a practice in the Philippines for craftsmen to improvise their own tools and equipment (e.g drill bits, saw blades, engraving tools, other manual hand tools). This is because local jewelry craftsmen treat their work as artistic expressions of themselves.

According to a top jewelry-maker, Pedro Zuñiga, this is not to be derided as an obsolete method. Philippine competitiveness in the jewelry industry may well reside in hand-crafted artistic pieces which cater to the most discriminating buyers.

The selling point of the Philippines may well be in the design, the craftsmanship and the longer durability of hand-made jewelry.

But countries like Thailand and China are forging ahead with the use of modern technology.

Recommended strategies

Officers of the Jewelry Industry Association have proposed several policies and strategies to make Philippine gold glitter more brightly in the global market.

Cecile Ramos of Ricel's Jewelry is calling on the government to help the industry in marketing, specifically in funding the industry's trade fairs abroad. She cited Thailand where the government pays for the marketing costs of its local jewelers.

She proposes that the government should at least subsidize the industry's overseas marketing trips as the cost is too much. "A single trip can easily cost us P250,000 to P500,000. A single booth at a trade fair abroad could run as high as P250,000."

Aside from marketing support, Ramos also wants government subsidy for training of jewelers. However, this is difficult because of the government's lack of funding. "It is unnerving that almost 90 percent of the financial assistance received by the industry has come from foreign funding agencies."

Although the Philippine government provides the industry support in terms of tax and raw material tariff exemptions, Zuñiga of Zuñiga Jewelry wishes that the government accord zero duties and tariffs for the importation of capital equipment—an incentive granted to jewelers by governments in other Asian countries.

If the Philippine government advocates the same policy, he thinks that the industry can be competitive compared in Aisa in jewelry manufacturing and trading.

He also identified financing as another critical component that the government can provide to help the industry.

Araceli Sarabia of NL Gems and Jewelry recommends three strategies. One is to explore the export market more vigorously. She believes there is a huge demand for high quality, handicraft jewelry in the US, China and other countries.

The second strategy is to foster strong relationships with workers, take care of their welfare, treat them with honesty and sincerity and honor obligations to them. Upgrading their skills and competencies and providing them rewards and incentives are her concerns.

The third strategy is to minimize swindling by jewelry operatives and improve the safety and security of the industry's participants who are in constant threat of robbery and assault.

For Racquel del Rosario of Radiant Diamonds, the export market is a big opportunity she is currently eyeing for her business.

However, she feels that she needs to develop new designs that are unique in the international markets. Her main strategy is to create products that would incorporate the local flavor in the design of the jewelry items. She believes there may be an opportunity to create awareness for Philippine-made jewelry in the international jewelry market by using indigenous raw materials in the designs (i.e. coconut materials, etc.).

Del Rosario believes that a businessman engaged in jewelry must be able to nurture and maintain strong relationships with all partners of the business, including customers, workers and suppliers. Moreover, the entrepreneur must create a market niche for himself or herself—a strategy that has proven successful for her.

Delinquent shares

Corporate Securities Info

Raul Palabrica

WHEN A PERSON SUBSCRIBES TO THE stocks of a corporation and partially pays for them, he is expected to complete payment in the future.

The payment can either be on the date he verbally agreed to with the corporate secretary, or on the date stated in the subscription contract.

But sometimes the best of intentions can turn awry.

An unexpected change in financial conditions or more pressing needs may prevent an otherwise creditworthy stockholder from complying with his commitment.

Or if the stockholder has second thoughts about the soundness of his investment, he may decide to cut his "losses" and refuse to pay the balance of his subscription.

When all the means available to persuade the errant stockholder pay prove ineffective, the corporation is obliged to take stronger steps to compel the payment of the unpaid subscription.

Remedies

It doesn't matter if the corporation's financial standing will not be adversely affected by the inability of the stockholder to make his subscription payment.

The corporation has to do a Shylock of sorts to exact its pound of flesh from the stockholder to, at least, protect the interests of its creditors.

Filing a case in court for collection is easier said than done. Considering the judiciary's clogged dockets, that action will take years before it is resolved.

If the corporation has declared cash dividends to its stockholders, all or part of their proceeds may be applied to cover the balance of the unpaid subscription.

The most effective way to recover that amount is to declare the unpaid shares as delinquent and, after complying with the requirements of law, sell them at public auction.

Delinquency

The delinquency procedure is simple.

If the subscription contract specifies a date when the shares should be paid and no payment is made on that date, the shares are automatically considered delinquent.

No call for payment is required because the stockholder is presumed to know when he should pay the full value of his shares and is therefore aware of the consequences of his failure to pay.

If the contract is silent on the payment date or, for one reason or another, the date is not clear to the stockholder, the board of directors of the corporation has to make a formal date of demand for payment.

In case no payment is made by the stockholder within 30 days from the deadline for payment set, the shares shall become delinquent.

After the board has declared the stocks delinquent, it can order their sale at public auction for an amount equal to the unpaid subscription and whatever interests may have accrued in the meantime.

Between the time of the declaration and auction sale, the stockholder concerned can, if he wants to retain ownership of his shares, pay the subscription balance, including accrued interest, cost of advertisement and expenses of sale.

In the auction sale, the shares will be awarded to whoever offers to pay the full amount of the subscription balance, plus the other expenses.

Bid offers

The application of this auction rule was subject of a query to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The case involved 1,000 shares (with a par value of P.01) that were declared delinquent by the board. The unpaid subscription balance, interest and other expense totaled P150.

The bids for the shares were: Bidder A-900 shares for P150; Bidder B-1,000 shares for P170, and Bidder C-1,000 shares for P180.

The question posed was: Should the sale be awarded to Bidder A who bid for the amount due and for the smallest number of shares or to Bidder C who bid for the highest amount?

Citing Sec. 68 of the Corporation Code, the SEC ruled Bidder A the highest bidder and therefore the 900 shares should, after payment of that amount, be transferred to him.

The remaining 100 shares will be retained by the original owner of the delinquent shares.

Upon the completion of the transaction, the 1,000 delinquent shares should be considered fully paid.

A Leader's Way

From page B2-1

want you to know that if you accept this challenge, and succeed, I can't automatically make you a director."

Gail didn't even hesitate. "That's all right," she said. "I don't need a title to be a leader."

Leadership is influence

I couldn't have said it any better. You don't need a title to be a leader in life. And the simple fact of having a title won't make you a leader.

I've found that everyone has the opportunity to lead, every day. It doesn't matter what your position is, or how long you've worked at your job, whether you help to run your family, a PTA committee, or a Fortune 1000 company. Anyone at any level can learn to be a leader and help to shape or influence the world around them.

Do you shape your life and career?

Do you inspire or influence others?

Do you work to achieve specific goals by working with or coordinating the efforts of others?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions whether you realize it or not, you are a leader.

Leadership expert John Maxwell describes leadership as positive influence. That is the most simple and elegant definition of leadership I know.

In my experience, people lead for different reasons. The one thing they do have in common is passion—passion for life and for what they do. It's an attitude that applies in spades to West Point's Karen Wood. For more than 20 years, Karen has worked as an aide to the adjutant general.

Had it not been for Karen's dogged perseverance, Donald Stewart, a World War II veteran, might not have gotten the recognition he deserved for his service as a medic on the front lines in 1943. He had saved the lives of countless soldiers while under fire himself. When Karen discovered that Mr. Stewart had never been awarded a Bronze Star for his valor and courage, she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the award presentation a reality. Given the veteran's advanced age, Karen knew it was critical to get him the award as quickly as possible. She found a way to cut through the red tape and make it happen, as she had orchestrated so many important events at West Point.

For years, Karen's own dream had been to become a protocol officer. But rather than interviewing for the position, she simply worked as hard, and passionately, and selflessly in her role as aide as she knew how, consistently giving her best efforts to the officers she worked with. The higher-ups at the academy were well aware of her exemplary performance and leadership, and her qualifications for the job. Given that, you won't be surprised to learn that Karen was recently promoted. She is now a protocol officer, working for the superintendent of the academy.

"I believe that if you give 110 percent in your work it will come back tenfold," she says. As the single parent of a 15-year-old daughter, this is the work ethic she tries to teach her daughter, as well.

"Life is what you make of it. The more you put into it, the more it reflects back on you."

How does a leader act? What are the key characteristics of titled and untitled leaders?

They:

Believe they can positively shape their lives and careers.

Lead through their relationships with people, as opposed to their control over people.

Collaborate rather than control.

Persuade others to contribute, rather than order them to.

Get others to follow them out of respect and commitment rather than fear and compliance.

The leadership test

Despite popular myth, leaders—whether titled or untitled—aren't born. They learn how to lead. The real test of leadership is: If you had no title or ability to reward or penalize others, could you still get them to follow you?

You may be unaware of just how much of a leader you already are. You may be part of a large group of people I call the "undertitled." In other words, your title doesn't reflect all that you do or accomplish. If that describes you, don't let your lack of a title hold you back. You are a leader. (Conversely, we all know "leaders" who have impressive titles but who are anything but leaders.)

One last thing. There are plenty of books written about leadership with a capital L. The focus of this book is on "little l" leadership—whether you are a clerk or an accountant, or a manager, or a salesperson or a small-business owner. It is about the small things each of us can do every day to positively influence our customers, our colleagues, our friends, and our communities.

You aspire to lead if you want to:

Take control of your life

Make your organization better

Seize new opportunities

Improve the service your customers receive

Influence others to be their best

Solve problems

Contribute to the betterment of others

Make the world a little better place

And you don't need a title to do it.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, e-mail at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732. God bless!)

Raw action in GRAW for Xbox 360

Except for some minor glitches, this game will keep your fingernails dug in deep into the controller.

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

IT'S RARE TO FIND ANY GAME THAT excels in more than one console if it is ported, and Ubisoft is fortunate to be one of those companies that make such games, particularly Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter (GRAW) for the Xbox 360.

I admit, I've played all three versions of GRAW, which also came out in the PC and Playstation 2 platforms, and I'm inclined to say that the Xbox 360 version is perhaps the most graphically appealing of all. This is a straight-out shooter with some blend of tactical maneuvering for your team and careful strategy to survive one of the most intense first-person action since Bungie's Halo series.

We review this game on the XBox

As with the PC and Playstation 2 versions, GRAW for the Xbox 360 follows the story of Special Operations officer Capt. Scott Mitchell, who is thrust into a Mexican coup that came during a meeting with the US and Mexican President and the Canadian Prime Minister, who early in the game actually dies. Both the US and Mexican leaders have either been kidnapped or disappeared and military-grade US hardware has fallen intro the hands of the Mexican rebels led by one Carlos Ontiveros. Your mission will be to find both presidents, recover the stolen US technology and repel Ontiveros and his rogue soldiers. This is classic Tom Clancy stuff.

While the PC version is more massive in scale and requires a much deeper sense of tactical know-how, the Xbox is more straight-forward and just lets the player go straight to the next checkpoint or rendezvous point. The heads-up display unit is no different from the PC and PS2 versions: it has the team/support vehicle monitor on the upper-left, the HQ camera on the opposite side, the weapons indicator on the lower-right side and the action indicators in the lower-left. Red diamond-shaped indicators light up when there are enemies around and this is particularly useful when confronted by many enemies.

The Select button of the controller toggles the tactical map, which is nearly the same as the one in the PC version but this time, the tactical map is primarily used to maneuver your three-man team or vehicles that are currently at your disposal. It tells you where your target is and where identified enemies are. Take note, however, that when the tactical map is active, your own player cannot move although you can move your teams and vehicles, so you better use the map when you're in a safe zone.

At first, players may find HUD very cluttered and sometimes it actually blocks your clear view of enemies—but then most of the time, these are necessary to make sure your weapons are checked, that your teammates' life bars are OK and to keep abreast with your orders from HQ. Also remember that there are no mid-game saves and that you have to rely on checkpoints to start at the middle of the game.

Graphically, the game is amazing. It recreates the look and feel of being in a big city, particularly Mexico City. The maps are huge but not as large as in the PC version but it's still very difficult not to slow down and just appreciate how well the city was rendered, from the sky above to the leaves on trees and down to the debris of a blown-up tank. Whilst the PS2 version was very linear (and the graphics were terrible), the Xbox 360 version could let you explore a bit before going ahead to your mission. Luckily, none of the missions are time-bound so even if your intelligence commander tells you "what's the hold up, Mitchell? Move it soldier!" you can still go around a bit and even your three-man support group would just watch your back in case you want to go sightseeing. But one glaring mistake in the game is the lack of any civilian population that would make you extra careful not to shoot them. Given that there it's a civil war and enemies are all over, the least the developers could have done is to include a few civilians running around trying to get to safer areas or looting some of the stores. I'm pretty sure the Xbox 360's graphics processor can handle additional objects to process. I didn't experience any lag even in the middle of a firefight.

Speaking of which, the action is very intense especially if you're surrounded by a battalion of hardened soldiers and two or three armored vehicles. You order your men to take cover and you try to find a good spot to shoot but then there are enemies that actually go around you and try to shoot you from behind so you have to order your men to watch your back while you do the rest of the shooting. But this is not the case all the time and your teammates can also shoot down enemies. There are times when a grenade explodes near you and the subsequent boom would impair your hearing for a while. Be very careful when there are tanks as the explosion from their shells is radial and can take you and your whole team out in a single shot. There are parts in the game where you keep dying largely because of the rush of bloodthirsty enemies attacking you. In one particular mission, the enemies were so many that I had to get back to the ammo box (a military-green box that looks like an ATM and actually works like one) just to refill my grenades, first aid and bullets. If I had died in that mission, I would have had to go through the whole long process of fighting at least two armored battalions again.

The AI is just good enough for you to actually be shot down. The enemies attack at the direction of their attackers—so it's either you or your teammates. However, there are lots of sniper fire from rooftops so be very careful because their primary target is you. Sometimes, enemies hide when they get shot but don't die and then move to another location to get a better shot at you or your teammates. Even the AI of your teammates is very good. As you order them to head for another location, they will stick together and form a sniping team when in recon mode. One will peek through corners and identify enemies while the other two will move to shoot. While it's actually a treat just watching your team fight off enemies, their shooting capabilities are not well-developed, forcing you to actually do about half the fighting. Sometimes, your enemies get shot down by sniper fire or by the explosion of a grenade or a shell from a tank. They don't die immediately but you'll have to apply first aid within a certain period lest they die. Once patched up, they go back to action but their lifebars are limited—when they get shot just once, they go down immediately.

Hard-core first-person shooter gamers will be impressed with how well an 8-button configuration controller works for a tactical shooter like GRAW. As in Halo, the left analog stick is for leg movement while the right analog stick is for aiming. Right trigger button is for firing while the left is for accurate aiming. There are buttons for night vision, weapons toggle, reload, team orders and actions. Because the aiming in GRAW for the Xbox 360 is not accurate compared to using a mouse in the PC, the computer automatically aims it as long as the target is within the scope. When targeting enemies from a longer range, you'll have to hold your breath with the left trigger while on sniper mode.

GRAW could have been the perfect game but there are, of course, some kinks. Technically, there were times when my character froze but the whole game was still running. I could maneuver Mitchell around and even let him shoot but he won't move. Likewise, there were instances when my sniper scope froze and I couldn't get out of it. I was running around with the scopes on. That meant having to restart the whole mission and not just from the checkpoint.

But perhaps one of the most glaring glitch is how short the game is: Just a little over 12 hours on normal mode! I was expecting it to be longer, around 15 hours, but I got to finish the game in just one weekend. Given that the game is intense, it leaves you wanting more. Good thing the company recently released Chapter two of the game with five new maps and several new weapons. Hopefully, the new add-on (free when subscribed to Xbox Live) will still be at par with the game.

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Bloggers chronicle typhoon's fury in Metro Manila

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

TYPHOON MILENYO (INTERNATIONAL codename Xangsane) and the resulting power outage that paralyzed Metro Manila and the island of Luzon Thursday did not prevent some Philippine-based bloggers from narrating their experiences.

Blogger and Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Manuel Quezon III wrote of his own experience and cited several blogs that recorded the different experiences of local residents.

"I live on the 9th floor of a building: leaves were blown in by the winds. Flying GI sheets everywhere but mercifully, no shoddy construction in my neck of the woods. Areas with tall buildings create all sorts of funky wind tunnel effects so at particular moments, the different gusts led to raindrops being suspended in midair for moment," Quezon wrote in his blog.

The typhoon brought the National Capital Region to a near-standstill as schools suspended classes and government and some businesses sent their employees home.

One blog, mr. fuji meets manila narrated what he saw from a hotel room in Metro Manila the day the typhoon struck.

"Remember how you felt as a kid in the winter time, and you'd wake up and run to the window to see if school was canceled because of the snow on the ground? That's probably what the kids here are feeling right now, except there's no snow, and the weather conditions are probably a lot more dangerous than a little snow," the blogger wrote in a September 27, 2006 entry.

Mr. Fuji said he could hear the "wind rattling the windows of the hotel, while the "rain, paper and leaves are flying upwards past my hotel window, twenty-two storeys up."

He also posted photos of Metro Manila during the storm.

Another blog Touched by an Angel written by Noemi Lardizabal-Dado, 49, a professional blogger and mother captured snapshots of Metro Manila during the typhoon.

The typhoon, which had maximum winds of 120 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph, toppled trees and billboards, and damaged cell phone sites in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces.

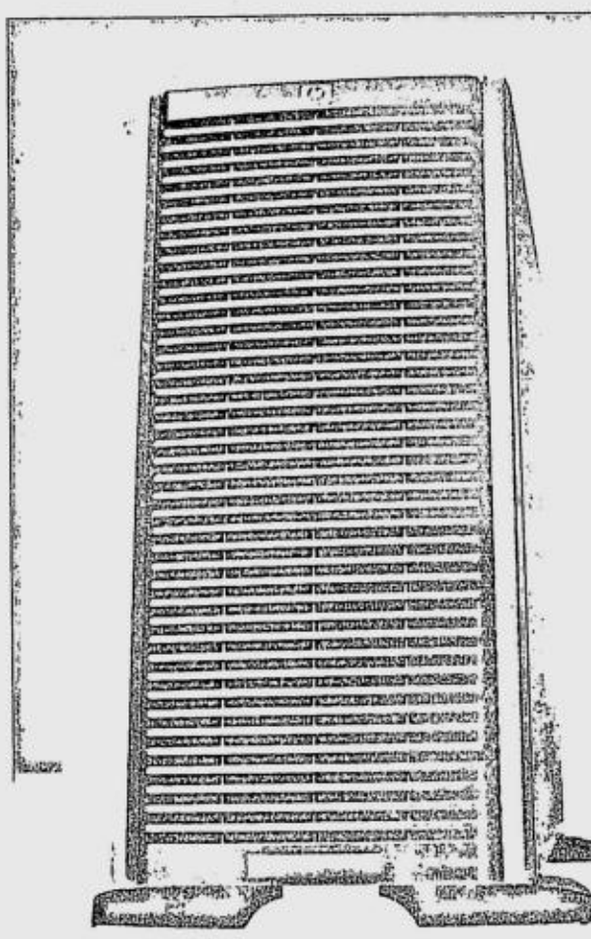
Blogger Lardizabal-Dado took a snapshot of a crumpled billboard and toppled trees in Metro Manila.

Some Filipino bloggers took videos of the actual storm and its aftermath and posted them on YouTube and other online video hosting services. This lady blogger , for instance, showed one house badly damaged by a toppled tree.

Other bloggers took snapshots of Metro Manila during and after the storm. Most of these amateur photos were also posted on Flickr, a free web-based photo hosting service.

As of Thursday, reports said at least 18 persons were reported dead in the cities of Muntinlupa (2), Makati (1) and Legazpi (1), and the provinces of Albay (8), Quezon (3) and Antique (3) in the wake of the typhoon.

The typhoon, whose international codename is the Laotian word for elephant, has killed 28 people.



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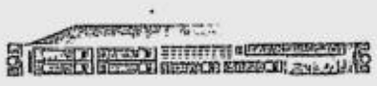

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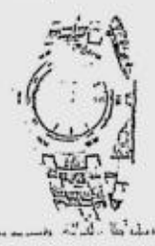

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New CICT execs named, 1 leaves

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has appointed new officials at the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), while one commissioner has decided to leave.

CICT Commissioner Angelo Timoteo Diaz de Rivera said two new officials were sworn in on Monday, but also confirmed the departure of Telecommunications Office (Telof) Assistant Secretary Frank Perez, who was recently named CICT commissioner.

CICT chair Ramos Sales was unavailable for comment.

However, his chief of staff Patricia Abejo said Perez "did not resign" but "decided not to accept his appointment as commissioner of CICT."

Last month, Perez told Infotech that he was staying at Telof as assistant secretary until the Palace finds his replacement. He was also ex-officio of CICT prior to his appointment as commissioner of the same agency.

Meanwhile, Diaz de Rivera said CICT Deputy Commissioner Lorenzo Formoso was promoted to commissioner to oversee the information infrastructure group and become the new Assistant Secretary of Telof, while Consuelo Perez, formerly with the Board of Investments, will take over Formoso's post.

Diaz de Rivera said the CICT still lacks one more commissioner to fill in the job of former commissioner Damian Mapa who has joined the customer contact center of Dell in the Philippines. Mapa who was head of the strategic business development group, resigned from the CICT on August 4, 2006.

Diaz de Rivera said Perez has decided to "move on" but could not give details.

He said these developments came as a "shock" to him and hinted his stint with CICT will soon end.

"I've been telling them I will stay for another year. I'm seriously considering going back to private sector," he added.

The CICT, which is currently the highest policymaking body on information and communications technology in the country, is under the Office of the President.

Former banking executive and ICT veteran Ramon Sales took over as chair of CICT in May this year, replacing Virgilio Peña.

Sales was recently appointed to implement Arroyo's plan to promote the "Cyberservices Corridor," which is composed of key cities and provinces in the country where outsourcing businesses is now thriving.

Video game biz to reach $44B

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

A RECENT REPORT BY ENTERTAINMENT software research firm DFC Intelligence revealed that the video game and interactive entertainment industry will grow to $44 billion by 2011, up from $29 billion in 2005.

The revenues cover all hardware and software products for both consoles and PC, as well as online gaming services.

But the report, titled "Video Games at the Crossroads: Sony, Microsoft, Nintendo and the Battle for the Console Market," also predicts a looming "area of uncertainty" for the standalone console system as it could not predict which of the next-generation system will dominate the business.

The three next-generation consoles are the Microsoft Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii and Sony Plastation 3.

The report emphasized the similarities in market growth for each platform but there are various results in specific scenarios.

DFC Intelligence report author George Chronis said both Nintendo and Sony are creating new business models for the gaming industry, which have no existing benchmarks yet to determine the outcome.

"These are uncertain times where neither conventional wisdom nor historical data necessarily predict who the winners and losers will be during the next three to five years," Chronis said.

Incidentally, the report stated that while any of the three next-generation consoles will dominate, none will likely repeat the dominance of the Sony Playstation 2.

DFC Intelligence David Cole said that the PS2 accounted for 30 percent of worldwide interactive revenue but by 2011 the overall combined sales of console games will only account for a third of worldwide sales.

Cole also stressed that platform diversity would be the key to success.

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3RD QUARTER REPORT CARD

Opera reigns

THE PHILIPPINE Madrigal Singers in Tours, France

And the 4th quarter promises to be another opera season as the UST Conservatory's major production of 'Eugene Onegin' premieres this week at the CCP

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IT WAS A PERIOD RICH IN CLASSICAL music—specifically the opera—as the Philippine Opera Company (POC) and the University of the Philippines College of Music unveiled their opera seasons.

And the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music is set to go to town with a major production of the Tchaikovsky-Pushkin opera "Eugene Onegin" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The huge production was supposed to have premiered last Friday, but due to the aftermath of the typhoon Milenyo, the CCP decided to reset the gala Oct. 6-7, with a matinee on Oct. 7 at 3 p.m. (For tickets, call the UST Conservatory, 7314022 or 4061611 loc. 8246; and CCP, 8323704. Tickets are also available at all Ticketron outlets.)

The UP College of Music got things going first with an opera twin bill at the CCP: Mozart's "The Impresario" (in celebration of the Austrian genius' 250th birth anniversary), and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci."

The first was a comic opera focusing on dueling sopranos, zestfully played by Katrina Saporsantos (now in Manhattan) and Mary Ann Lanuza. In "Pagliacci," baritone Lionel Guico gave his all and succeeded, but it was soprano Camille Lopez who stole the show.

At the RCBC Plaza Theater, the POC presented Terrence McNally's "Master Class," directed by Michael Williams. It is a play with classical music, specifically wonderful opera arias. Attractive sopranos Karla Gutierrez and Anna Feleo and personable tenor Glen Gaerlan showcased their acting as well as singing talents. And Jay Valencia Glorioso, as Maria Callas imperiously conducting a master class, gave the performance of her life.

Speaking of master classes, outstanding Filipino tenor Jun Peñaverde attended a two-week master class by Daniel Ferro in Chianti, Italy. And the feedback from my favorite stage father (next to old classmate Cesar Macuja), Roger Peñaverde, is that the Italians raved about Jun's interpretation of "Una Furtiva Lagrima."

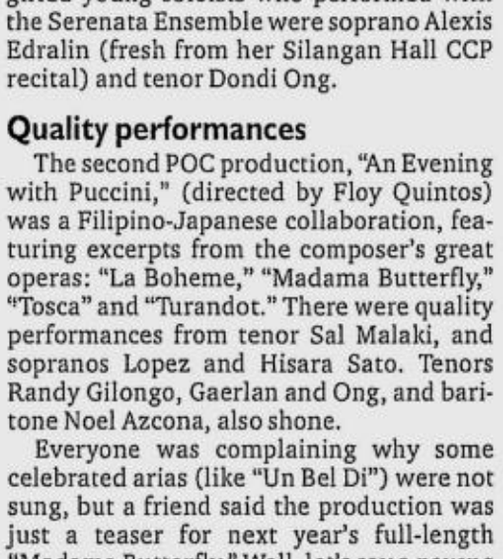
Back home, at the Paref Southridge School Auditorium, young Peñaverde was in fine form, his ringing voice exuding bel canto lyricism and expressiveness. Other gifted young soloists who performed with the Serenata Ensemble were soprano Alexis Edralin (fresh from her Silangan Hall CCP recital) and tenor Dondi Ong.

Quality performances

The second POC production, "An Evening with Puccini," (directed by Floy Quintos) was a Filipino-Japanese collaboration, featuring excerpts from the composer's great operas: "La Boheme," "Madama Butterfly," "Tosca" and "Turandot." There were quality performances from tenor Sal Malaki, and sopranos Lopez and Hisara Sato. Tenors Randy Gilongo, Gaerlan and Ong, and baritone Noel Azcona, also shone.

Everyone was complaining why some celebrated arias (like "Un Bel Di") were not sung, but a friend said the production was just a teaser for next year's full-length "Madama Butterfly." Well, let's say a *novena* for that. Yasuo Shinozaki conducted the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra with

OPERA/ C2



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Opera reigns

From page C1

flair. The chorus—Coro Tomasino—received its share of applause at the CCP.

While the UST Conservatory of Music celebrated its 60th anniversary with "Eugene Onegin," the UP College of Music (headed by Dean Ramon Acoymo) commemorated its 90th anniversary with a presscon, tour of the conservatory, and a blue-ribbon mini-concert featuring outstanding alumni, faculty and students, including the UP Orchestra. Angela Lawenko performed a Hindu dance number which won a prize in New Delhi.

BARITONE Andrew Fernando will play the title role in UST Conservatory of Music's "Eugene Onegin."

Not content with this, the UP College of Music presented four short operas in September: Pergolesi's "La Serva Padrona," Mozart's "The Impresario," Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore," (with young standouts Karlene Denolo, soprano, and Rainier Cruz, bass-baritone); and Floyd's "Susannah."

At the Heritage House (43 Hillside Loop, Blue Ridge), tenor Jimmy Melendrez was joyfully reunited with diva Fides Cuyugan Asensio, his singing partner some years back, in an impromptu soirée.

Melendrez was prevailed upon by host Odette Alcantara to resume his singing career and to sing for the environment, specifically for the greening of Cavite (where the singer now lives). Melendrez's voice remains in fine form, but he should vocalize every day again.

Actor-cultural administrator Fernando "Nanding" Josef celebrated his nth birthday in August in a no-frills style. A 6 p.m. Mass at the Malate Church was followed by a reception at the rectory penthouse, with its superb view of Manila Bay. Fr. John Leidon, parish priest and clearly an intellectual, gave a brief but profound talk on the Church, Marxism, Postmodernism, and even the creation of the universe.

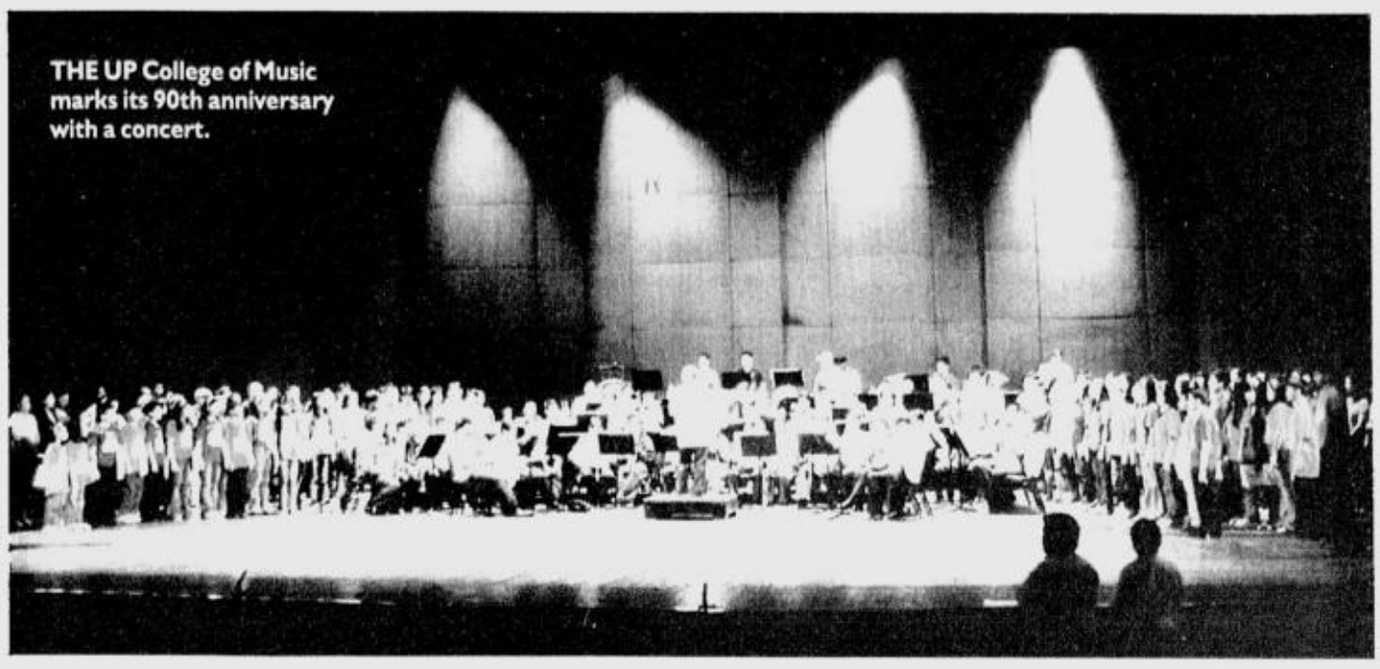
Triumphant tour

Our world-caliber choirs such as the Philippine Madrigal Singers and the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club continue to reap laurels abroad. They returned from a triumphant tour of Europe, winning a slew of prizes, and then staged homecoming concerts.

From out of the blue, psychologist-housewife-gourmet Bituin (Bet) Evangelista Montecillo reinvented herself as a songwriter, and launched a double CD album of lovely liturgical songs ("Choose Me, Lord") and romantic songs ("Long Have I Loved You"). Interpreting these are noted singers: soprano Lisa Cabahug, songwriter José Mari Chan, "singing sweethearts" Jeanelle Bihag and Raymond Roldan, Pauline Peronilla and Bishop Chito Tagle.

Fiery Vienna-based pianist Aima Labra Makk—the successor to Cecile Licad—tackled the formidable Piano Concerto No. 5 by Beethoven at the CCP, and emerged with flying colors. She was accompanied by the Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO), with its young and highly promising members led by conductor-composer Chino Toledo.

At the Art Deco Far Eastern University Auditorium, nostalgia was in the air with all those wonderful 1930s songs by Gershwin, Rodgers et al., as stylishly interpreted by singing actor Eugene Villaluz and soprano Patrice Pacis (who is also a good comedienne). They were accompanied by top-of-the-line artists: flutist Antonio Maigue, pianist Della Besa and guitarist Butch Roxas.



THE UP College of Music marks its 90th anniversary with a concert.

Rambunctious farce

With a rambunctious set of players (Arnel Carrion/Niccolo Manahan, Ana Bitong/Jenny Jamora, and Jejie Esguerra/Dingdong Rosales), director Bart Guingona was able to exploit the farcical possibilities in Chekhov's "The Boor" and "The Proposal." This Repertory Philippines production was staged at the Rep's Globe Theater, Greenbelt I.

Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) was a great Russian playwright, but an even greater short-story writer.

Chemistry, stage presence, and felt performances won the day for actress-on-a-roll Shamaine Centenera and sensitive hunk Ryan Neil Sese (who bared all at the end) in Tennessee Williams' melodramatic "Orpheus Descending" ("Orfeo sa Impiyerno"), translated by George de Jesus III and directed by the inventive José Estrella. This was a Tanghalang Pilipino play staged at the CCP's Aurelio Tolentino Theater.

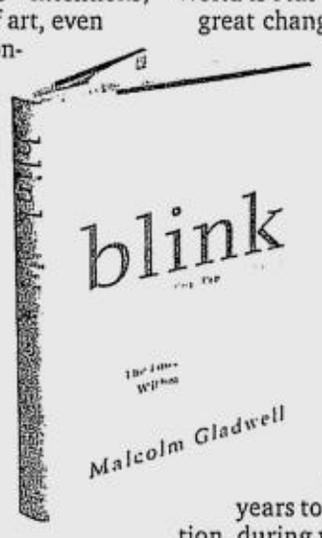
Ensemble acting was excellent, and the response from the youthful audience was most enthusiastic.

After Peta's successful "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" at SM Centerpoint, legitimate theater again invaded the malls with Frank Rivera's "Oyayi" (at SM Megamall), directed by CJ Andaluz with a cast headed by Bodgie Pascua. The modern *zarzuela* also attracted a big crowd. It is the serio-comic story of a Filipino family searching for a national identity and divided by sociopolitical issues.

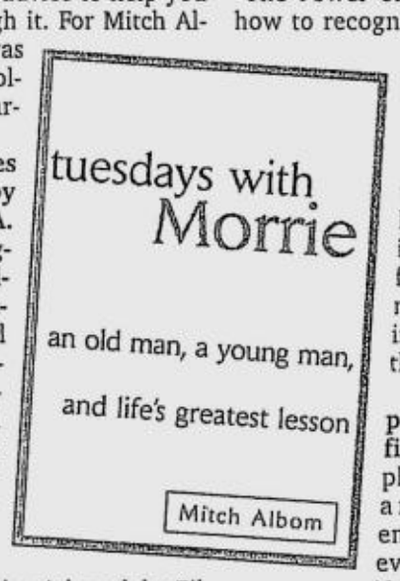
Kudos to prima ballerina Lisa Macuja for making the country her home base. She celebrated her 20th year in ballet with excerpts from her most memorable roles end of September at Aliw Theater, CCP Complex. With a different repertoire, a second show is scheduled Oct. 6-8.

Top nonfiction bestsellers

"BLINK," BY MALCOLM GLADWELL—Gladwell provides an entertaining and illuminating look at how we make snap judgments—about people's intentions, the authenticity of a work of art, even military strategy. He concludes, after studying how people make instant decisions in a wide range of fields from psychology to police work, that we can make better instant judgments by training our mind and senses to focus on the most relevant facts—and that less input (as long as it's the right input) is better than more.

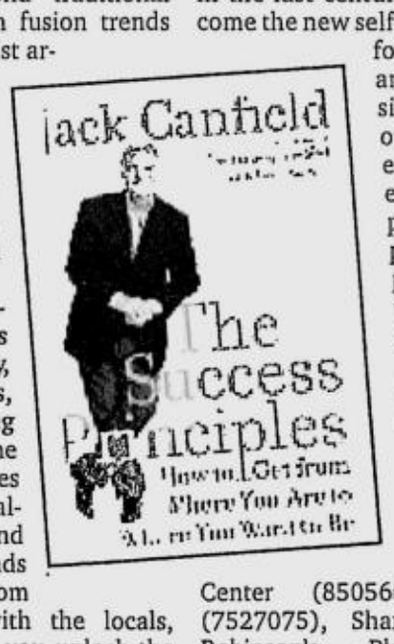


"Tuesdays with Morrie," by Mitch Albom—Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly 20 years ago.



"25 Tropical Houses in the Philippines," by Elizabeth V. Reyes, A. Chester Ong (photography), Paulo Alcazaren (introduction)—"25 Tropical Houses of the Philippines" features top Filipino architects and designers with ideas that are stylish, contemporary, and 21st-century savvy. These distinctive homes showcase the best residential work by Filipino architects—outstanding works by 20 designers stepping beyond traditional conventions toward Asian fusion trends and international modernist architecture. The book offers a tour of stunning structures ranging from gracious pavilion-houses in elite subdivisions of Manila to elegant vacation homes in Batangas and Mindoro.

"Lonely Planet: Philippines," by Chris Rowthorn, Michael Day, Ryan Ver Berkmoes, Michael Grosberg, Greg Bloom—Escape to the Philippines! The Philippines boasts a string of coral-fringed islands, white-sand beaches and pristine strands of virgin rainforest. From diving to connecting with the locals, "Lonely Planet" will help you unlock the adventures to be enjoyed in this archipelago of natural wonders on the frontier of Southeast Asia.



"The World Is Flat," by Thomas L. Friedman—This new edition of "The World Is Flat" is Friedman's account of the great changes taking place in our time, as lightning-swift advances in technology and communications put people all over the globe in touch as never before—creating an explosion of wealth in India and China, and challenging the rest of us to run even faster just to stay in place.

"The Power of Now," by Eckhart Tolle—The best-seller describes the author's transition from despair to self-realization soon after his 29th birthday. Tolle took another 10 years to understand this transformation, during which time he evolved a philosophy that has parallels in Buddhism, relaxation techniques, and meditation theory but is also eminently practical. In "The Power of Now," he shows readers how to recognize themselves as the creators of their own pain, and how to have a pain-free existence by living fully in the present. Accessing the deepest self, the true self, can be learned, he says, by freeing ourselves from the conflicting, unreasonable demands of the mind and living fully, and intensely, in the Now.

"The Success Principles," by Jack Canfield—"The Success Principles" is a watershed book for a renewed era of success-oriented culture, touching on every aspect of our lives. As Napoleon Hill's "Think and Grow Rich" was a touchstone for readers in the last century, so this book will become the new self-improvement standard for our own. From sales and marketing professionals to small business owners, and from teachers to students and parents, Canfield offers 64 practical and inspiring principles to get any aspiring person from where they are to where they want to be.

The books are the best-selling nonfiction works from Power-Books, which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), SM Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta 3 (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (523-3334/5243448) and SM Mall of Asia (5560244).

The new demand for good writers

By Arlyn Palisoc Romualdo
Contributor

PHILIPPINE WRITING IN English was actually born in the classrooms of the University of the Philippines, where Filipino students were first exposed to the masterpieces of English and American literature.

Through both political and economic crises, and notwithstanding a consistent undervaluing of the profession by society, UP has continued to nourish literary talent. And today it boasts a rich tradition that includes National Artists José Garcia Villa, Francisco Arcellana, and NVM Gonzalez, who trained succeeding generations of writers.

CREATIVE writing class in UP

These younger writers—Gémino H. Abad, José Y. Dalisay Jr., Isabela Banzon-Mooney—like their mentors, either stayed on or returned to academe, to run the university's Creative Writing Program. The program continues to produce prize-winning fictionists, poets and essayists, such as Isabelita Reyes, Paolo Manalo, Conchitina Cruz, Celeste Flores-Cocolluela, who are now also part of the faculty.

Today, with the deterioration of English language skills, and the recognition by both the government and the private sector of the importance of English writing and speaking skills, graduates of the program find that their market value has suddenly shot up.

They are in great demand not just in media, PR and advertising (traditional employers of writers), but in all sectors that require writing and editing of even such basic documents as reports, brochures, newsletters. And this is not even to mention the burgeoning BPO industry.

UP's pioneering Creative Writing Program is offered by the College of Arts and Letters, whose dean is National Artist Virgilio Almario. And it has come a long way from its beginnings in 1921 with fiction and playwriting classes conducted by Dean Spruill Fensler and Harriet Ely Fensler; and from 1925, when Paz Marquez Benitez began teaching a course on the short story.

Today, it offers a full complement of courses from undergraduate to Ph.D. levels. Most are workshop courses, for which students submit original manuscripts which are critiqued in class and revised.

The program includes a substantial literature component, and Ph.D. Creative Writing students are prepared for a career as both writers and academics.

Perhaps one of its main strengths is that it has always encouraged students to develop an individual writing style and an individual voice. The powerhouse faculty has always been open to new trends and innovations.

Rene Villanueva began teaching courses in Television Scriptwriting more than a decade ago. Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo designed and taught the first courses in Creative Nonfiction. Charlson Ong and Rosario Lucero teach both Realist and Non-Realist fiction. Mailin Paterno introduced Writing for Children courses, now taught by Carla Pacis and Heidi Abad.

Gay Writing and Erotic Writing were introduced by J. Neil Garcia. Vim Nadera (now director of the UP Institute of Creative Writing) taught the first classes in Performance Poetry. Isabelita Reyes, one of the editors of the pioneering Internet magazine Leg Manila, introduced Magazine Writing.

Paolo Manalo and Emil Flores offered Writing for the Comics. Flores also teaches science fiction, and Manalo is now exploring different forms of popular culture including TV variety shows and literary blogging.

Writing majors thus have the opportunity both to be mentored by established multi-awarded writers and to experiment with new forms and techniques, including literary journalism, flash fiction, chick lit and found poetry.

The program benefits from the support it receives from the UP Institute of Creative Writing, the country's oldest writing center (established in 1978), which runs the UP National Writers' Workshop each summer.

The ICW provides young writers opportunities to participate in its many programs and projects, and its associates serve as literary referees for the UP Press. Its newly established panitikan.com is the Philippines' first national literary portal with links to all other literary websites.

So, aside from helping young writers find outlets for their work, the ICW also helps them find jobs, through its extensive networks, with organizations or companies with writing and/or editing requirements.

The program, headed for many years by Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio, Teatro Mulat founder, started by offering a BA Imaginative Writing in the 1960s. In 1989, it was renamed BA English Studies: Creative Writing.

The graduate programs were established in the early '90s. (It was also in 1989 that a Filipino counterpart—the Malikhaing Pagsulat program—was proposed to and approved by the UP Board of Regents. The program, and its MA and Ph.D. counterparts, are offered by the Filipino department.) Today, the degrees offered are BA, MA, and Ph.D. Creative Writing.

Interested parties may contact professor Conchitina Cruz at 9263496.

Mod turns 32

FROM ITS EARLY BEGINnings as a teen magazine in 1974 to becoming the leading weekly women's magazine, Mod continues to help Filipinas discover that modern woman in them.

Now, the country's longest-running weekly women's magazine celebrates 32 years with its biggest issue yet.

After making her debut as a cover girl in the magazine's Dec. 10, 1974, issue, beauty queen-turned-actress Gloria Diaz graces the cover once again, this time with daughter and fast-rising model Isabelle Diaz Daza.

For the first time, Mod also charts the 101 Most Beautiful Women in the World and the 32 Most Beautiful Filipinas.

With Christmas just around the corner, Mod also gives the Holiday Forecast 2006—from fashion, makeup, gifts, home décor, and, of course, food.

Mod is available at National Book Store branches and newsstands nationwide.

Interactive theater with a mission

THE AUTHOR

CAST of "Single Brown Female"

By Lito Casaje
Contributor

IN MY LATEST THEATRICAL excursion as director for Performing Arts of La Consolacion College Manila, I have decided to venture into mounting four award-winning one-act plays written by some of our country's prolific and seasoned playwrights, namely Jose Victor Torres, Rodolfo Lana Jr. and Chris Martinez.

Their plays, "Single Brown Female" and "Café Vittorio" (Torres), "Kuwan" (Lana) and "Welcome to IntelStar" (Martinez), will once again breathe life and hopefully disturb and provoke the sensitivities of the school's seemingly overprotected *colegialas* (though boys are slowly creeping in, now that it has launched its co-educational policy). La Consolacion is helmed by maverick Augustinian nun Sister Imelda Mora, OSA.

I was glad Sister Imee, herself an avid theater lover, was delighted over my physically interactive version of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" last year. So I thought that doing original Filipino plays this time would serve as alternative and respite from the tried-and-tested classics, though still employing the interactivity everyone had savored.

I really never thought doing campus theater would be my next agenda after having done over 17 full seasons for Dramatis Personae. Yet, surprisingly, I am enjoying it.

And this is what we call a full circle—though DP is still here and will be back via Bertolt Brecht's "Round Heads and Pointed Heads," a rarely staged parable on (racial) discrimination and its other permutations, to be followed by Albert Camus' "Caligula," a nihilistic treatise on absolute power corrupting absolutely.

This is really not a far departure from my usual fare, since Brecht/Camus and campus theater are what I normally do for DP. But it is in giving back, the sharing and the passing on of skills and insights to students, that I get fulfilled.

After all, one cannot simply go on doing honest-to-goodness, no-nonsense serious theater and feel empty at the end of the day. When that happens, one should start to reexamine his purpose in life as an artist.

Are we getting enough feedback from our audiences? Do we feel we should be more aggressive in our stand as concerned individuals trying to etch out not just a niche and a name for ourselves but also a solid place in the responsible and mission-laden scheme of things—a quest for a truly goal-driven, socio-centered, and meaningful mission for others—as artists?

Time and again, this seemingly tired and overused issue of being an artist for others has hounded me. Before, everything was more lip service and theoretical, or as we say, empty sound bites.

But now that I'm slowly but surely not getting any younger, the more this "sweet nothingness" is hounding me, though this time with increasing resonance and crescendo. And I'm getting the feeling that this, and only this, is the way to go.

Thus, this mission, no matter how miniscule it may be, is still a mission to reckon with.

Sensitive issues

"'Single Brown Female' and Other Shorts" will be capped by a Q&A and to be presided over by the institution's Center for Social Responsibility and Applied Ethics (CSRAE), which will thus hopefully and intelligently tackle the sensitive issues underlying the themes of the plays, such as gender sensitivity ("Kuwan"), stress in the workplace ("Welcome to IntelStar"), women empowerment ("Single Brown Female"), and marital infidelity ("Café Vittorio").

More hopefully, this theatrical experience will not just be another educational and entertaining fare, but rather a thought-provoking and possibly life-altering experience for everyone, audience and performer alike.

Performing in these plays are a mix of LCCM School of Performing Arts homegrown talents and seasoned stalwarts of Dramatis Personae. They include Declan Patrick, Rey Ucat, Toni Rodriguez, Precious Jaraplasan, Ryan Mendoza, Melanie Garcia, Miguel Angelo Cristobal and Rose Concepcion (as Ma. Leonora Teresa Grabador-Bayot, a.k.a. Ma'am Chelsea).

Costumes are by Lito Perez of Camp Suki, and backstage supervision by my harassed and hardworking theater arts and production class students, with the unwavering support of members of arte.comm, LCCM's resident student media arts organization.

See you all then this Friday, Oct. 6, for "Single Brown Female and Other Shorts," with matinees at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Mother Consuelo Barcelo Auditorium of La Consolacion College Manila (beside Malacañang Palace Gate). Experience cámpus theater at its best—interactively.

Pelicula opens this week

INSTITUTO CERVANTES IS HOLDING "Pelicula," the biggest showcase of Spanish and Latin American films in Southeast Asia, at Cinema 1 of Greenbelt 3 in Ayala Center, Makati, on Oct. 3-15.

The opening night on Oct. 3 also serves as the grand launch of the Fiesta 2006, the Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts.

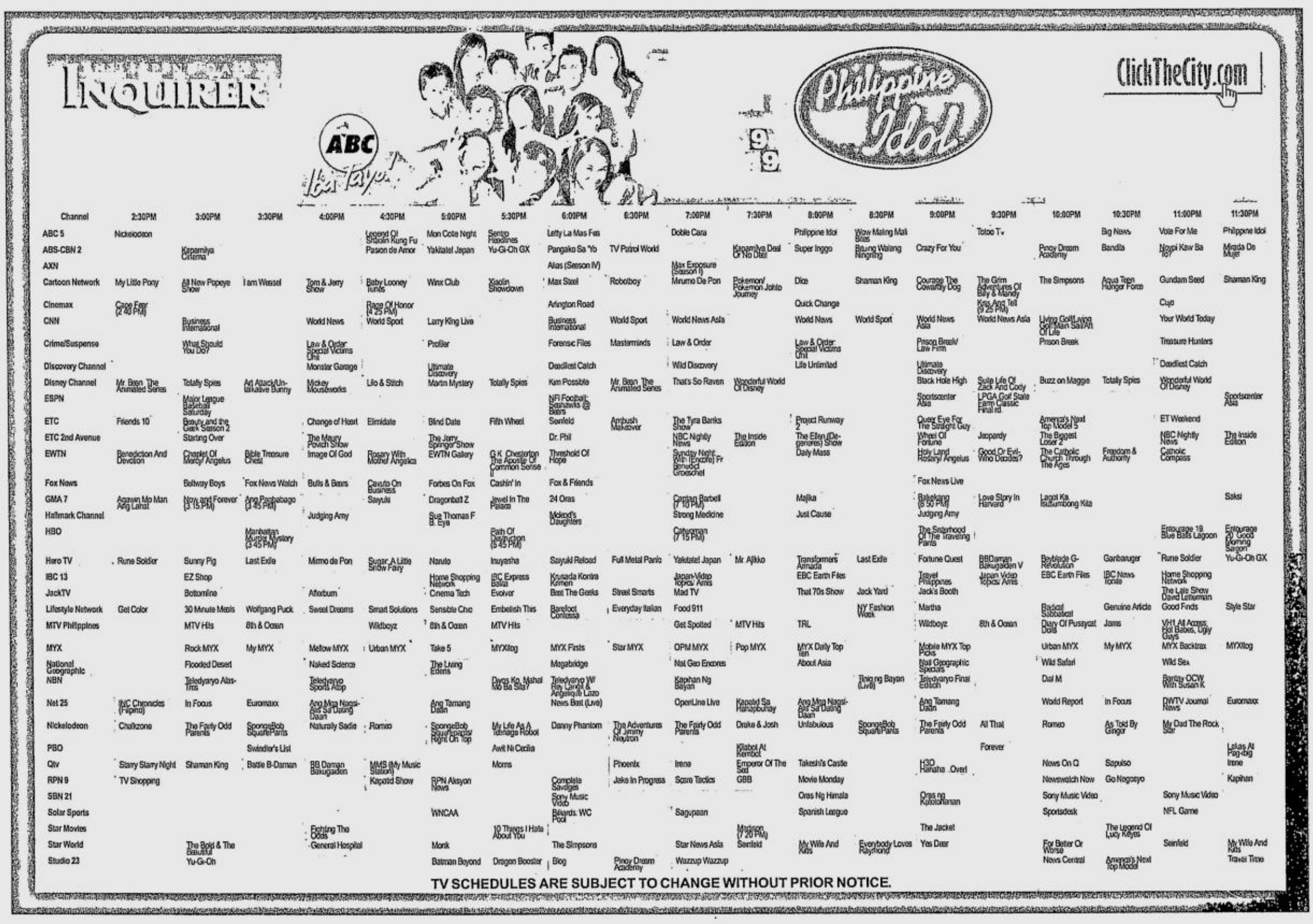
The opening film is the latest work of Spanish director F. Leon, "Princesas," a tale of friendship between two prostitutes plying their trade in Madrid. Also to be shown is "Tapas," a comedy about neighbors in a suburb of Barcelona.

A special highlight of Pelicula is the premiere of Filipino director Gil Portes' "Barcelona," with Alessandra de Rossi in the lead, on Oct. 11.

A new feature of the festival is the midnight screening of selected films on Oct. 6, 7, 13 and 14. To be shown are "Amor Idiota (Idiot Love)," the comedy "Ninette," and the dance documentary "Iberia," which features some of Spain's hottest flamenco artists (Aída Gómez, Sara Baras, Antonio Canales). The screenings will be preceded by Spanish food and other cultural *tapas* like dance performances and mini-jazz concerts.

Pelicula 2006 will pay homage to José Luis Garci, one of Spain's most personal and uncompromising moviemakers. Garci earned worldwide recognition in 1982 with "Volver a Empezar (Begin to Beguine)," winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, the first Oscar won by Spain.

Pelicula will also feature cinematic gems from Argentina, Chile, and Colombia, particularly "Maria Full of Grace," the Colombian hit of 2004.

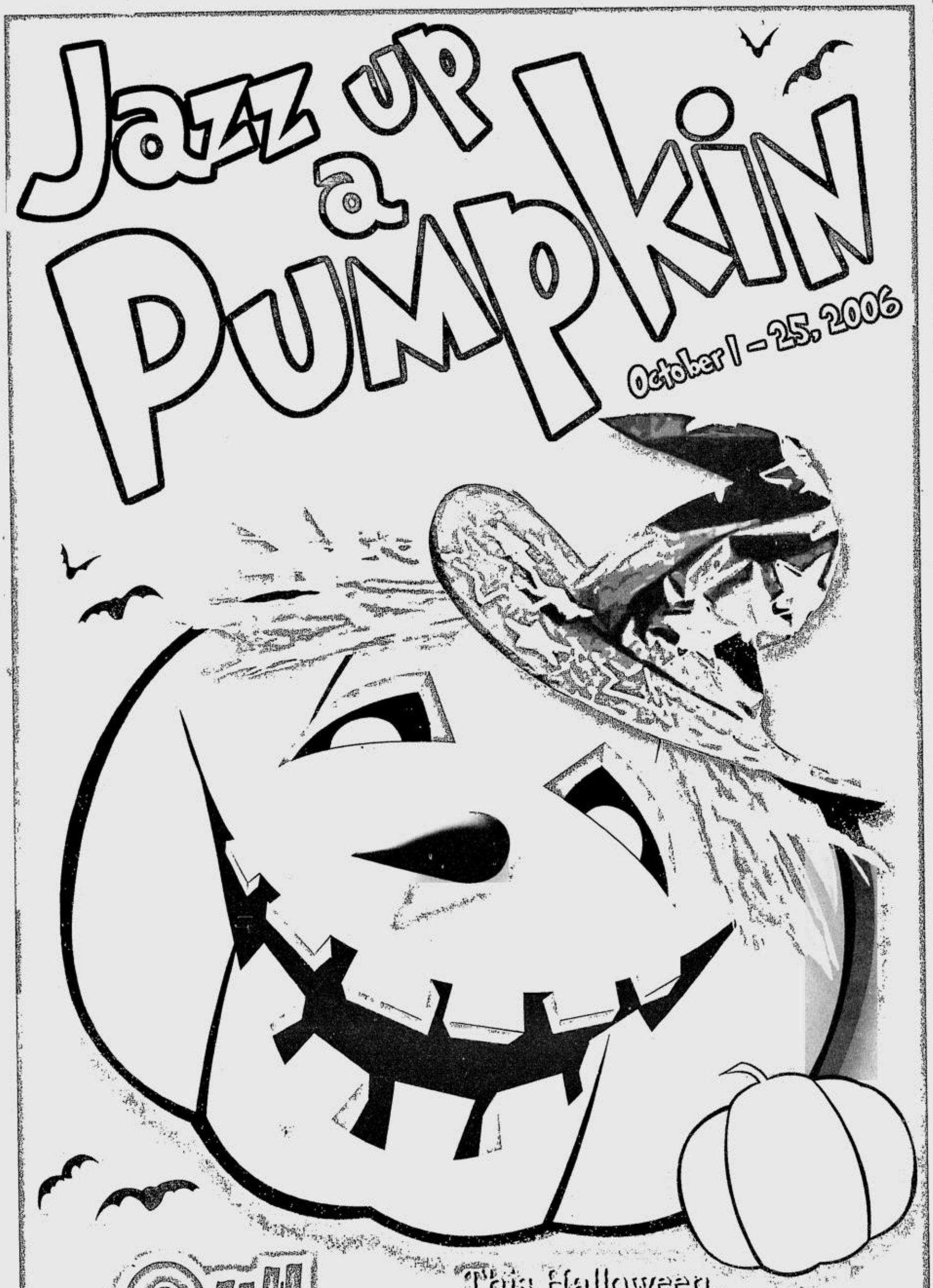


TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Month-Long Halloween Thrills at SM SUPERMALLS

Bewitching fun events and tempting trick n' treats are in store for everyone during the Halloween celebration in all 27 SM Supermalls.

The activities begin with an invitation to join the Jazz Up - a-Pumpkin Contest. The Halloween festivities culminate with Trick or Treating for children 10 years and below who come to the malls in their Halloween costumes and pumpkin pails.



Calendar of Events

SM CITY NORTH EDSA, FAIRVIEW, MEGAMALL, STA. MESA, MANILA, SAN LAZARO, SUCAT, BICUTAN, BACOOR, SOUTHMALL, SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA, SUPERCENTER PASIG

Trick or Treat
Oct. 29 / 10am- 2pm • 5pm-7pm
- Open to kids ages 10 years old & below, wearing costume with their pumpkin pails (available at SM Department Store)

Costume Contest
Oct. 29 /2pm
- Open to kids ages 10 years old & below
- Pre-registration starts on October 15 to 27, 7pm

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS

Scare Fair - October 23 -25
- Orange, black & violet merchandise exhibit

Able Music / Children's Blow-out - Oct. 29-30
- Arts & Crafts / Face Painting / Balloon Making / Story-telling / Games

Trick or Treat /Costume Contest - Oct.31
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO

Trick or Treat - Oct. 31 / 10am-9pm
Costume Contest - 10am-4pm
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY STA. ROSA

Orange & Black Punkie Party- Oct.27
- Trick or Treat and Halloween Costume Contest-*Oct.31*
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY BATANGAS

Trick or Treat- Oct. 31 / 10am-9pm
Storyland Halloween Event- Oct. 31/3pm
Halloween Costume Contest - 4pm
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY LIPA

Punkie Night- Oct. 27 / 7pm
- with Parokya ni Edgar

Angels in Harmony by Aima Music Studio- Oct. 29 / 10am
Halloween Costume Contest - Oct. 31/4pm
Trick or Treat - Oct. 31 / 10am onwards
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY LUCENA

Vocal & Chords Goes Halloween
Oct. 27 /4pm
Punkie Night- Oct. 28 / 7pm
- The Great Pumpkin Party

Magic Show- Oct. 29 / The Event Center
Trick or Treat /Halloween Costume Contest- Oct.31
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY MARILAO

Storyland Halloween Party - Oct. 28
Meralco Mall Tour - Oct. 29
Halloween Costume Contest- Oct. 31
- P5,000 Gift Cards to the winners!
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY PAMPANGA

Punkie Night Party - Oct. 30 / 7pm
- Rivermaya

Halloween Costume Contest - Oct. 31 /10am
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY CLARK

"Tigtigan, Terakan, sa SM City Clark na! Oct. 27 & 28

Trick or Treat / Costume Contest - Oct.31
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY BAGUIO

Inner Magic Club Halloween Magic Madness - Oct. 28 / 5pm / Atrium
Halloween Pet Fashion Show - Oct.29/2pm
Halloween Costume Contest for Kids
Punkie Night Party (Tent)
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY CEBU

Jollibee Superkids Club Hallowen Bash - Oct. 28/1pm onwards
Hallowen at Storyland - Oct. 29/3pm
Halloween Costume Contest - Oct. 31/4pm
Trick or Treat - Oct. 31
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY ILOILO

Masquerade Party- Oct. 28-29
Trick or Treat - Oct. 31 / 10am-7pm
Halloween Costume Parade Contest - Oct. 31 / 3pm
Storyland's Monster Jam - Oct. 31 / 11am onwards
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY DAVAO

Trick or Treat - Oct. 31
Halloween Costume Contest -Oct. 31
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

Scary Drawing Contest - Oct. 29
- Horror Booth / Face Painting / Internet Halloween Greetings

Everything Halloween Corner- Oct. 30

Halloween Costume Contest - Oct. 31
- Jazz Up a Pumpkin Announcement of winners

SM SUPERMALLS

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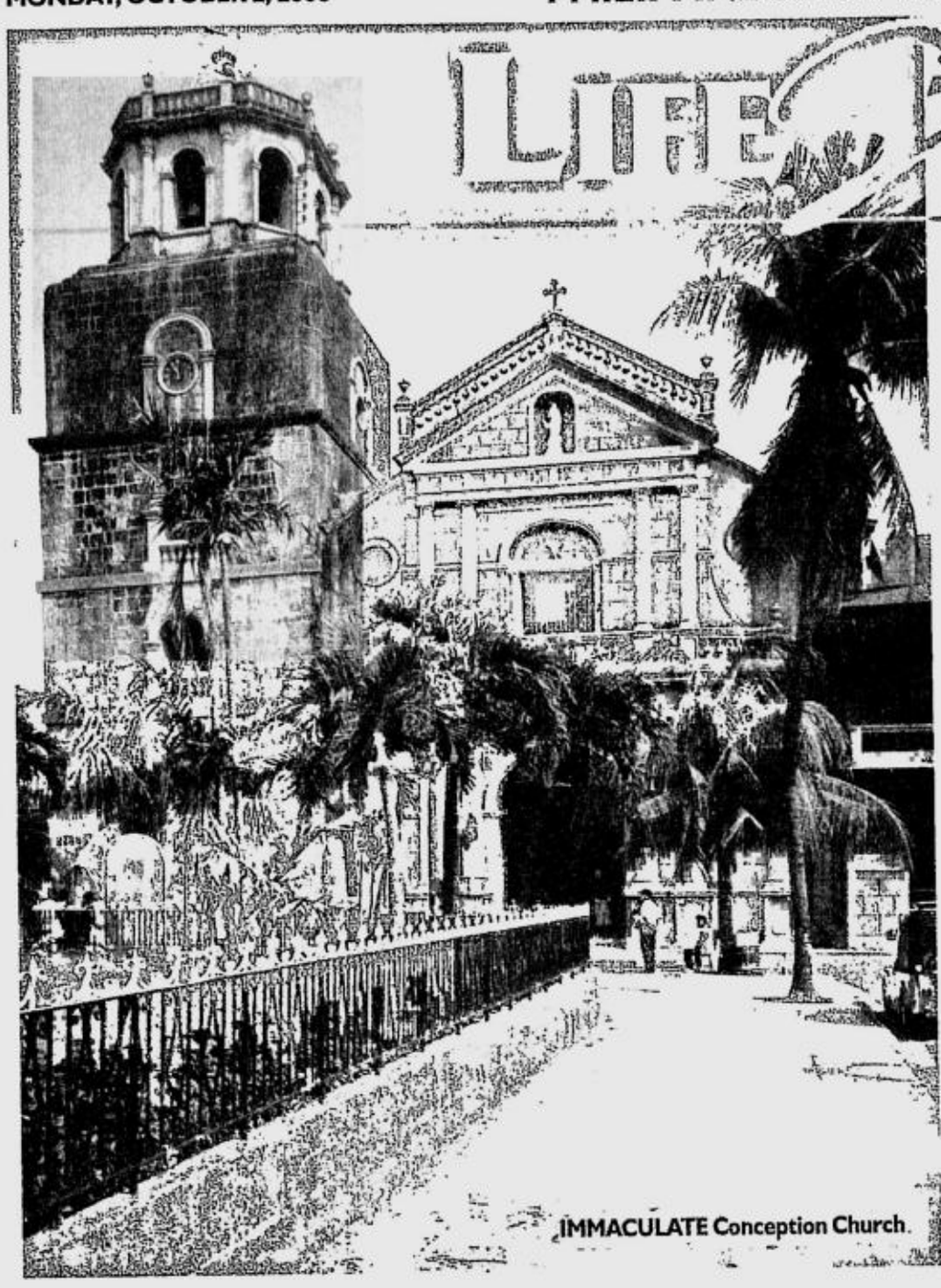

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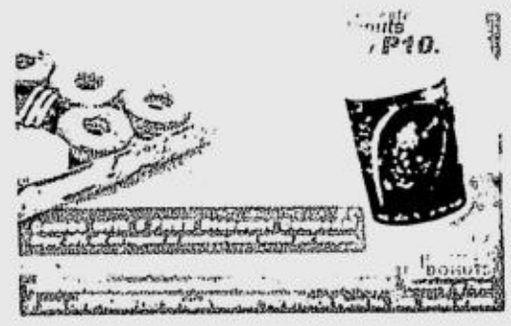

Pasig church conservation unites tradition and technology

MANY FILIPINOS HAVE BEEN around churches since childhood, attending services at least once a week throughout their lifetime, and marking all significant milestones—christenings, marriages and funerals—in church.

There is a church in practically every Filipino's memory.

That is probably the reason that when talk is of heritage, focus invariably narrows into Spanish colonial churches, sadly pointing out how most of them are now in either a sorry state of disrepair, alarming stages of crass modernization, or mock restoration.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Typical of many churches around the country, the Immaculate Conception Church in Pasig had fallen into poor condition after a series of misguided refurbishments over many years, requiring the commissioning of a conservation team to carry out the painstak-

PASIG/ D4

WHAT'S ON

Rock to the beat of this hot band as they promote their first album under Sony BMG Records.

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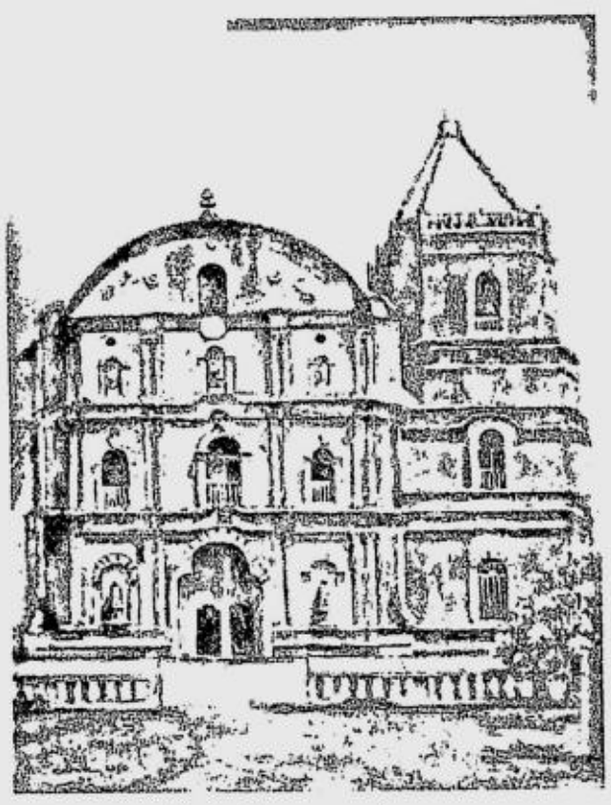
Spanish colonial churches on exhibit



TAYABAS Basilica in Quezon province

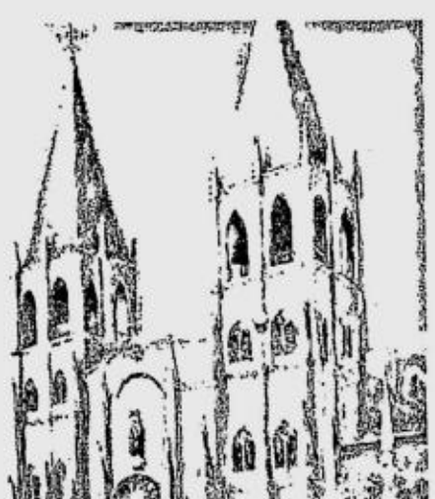
CAMILLE DE LA ROSA'S new show, "Sacred Heritage," focuses on Spanish colonial churches in Luzon.

The paintings of 40 church edifices will be viewed on Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m., at the Museum Space (2/F, Glass Wing), Ayala Museum, Makati Ave. cor. De la Rosa St., Makati City.

"I wanted to paint the churches in their most recent look so my travels in selected areas of Luzon really helped me achieve my goal," De la Rosa said. "I don't consider myself a pious person but the exhibit serves as my way of expressing my faith, both spiritually and artistically."

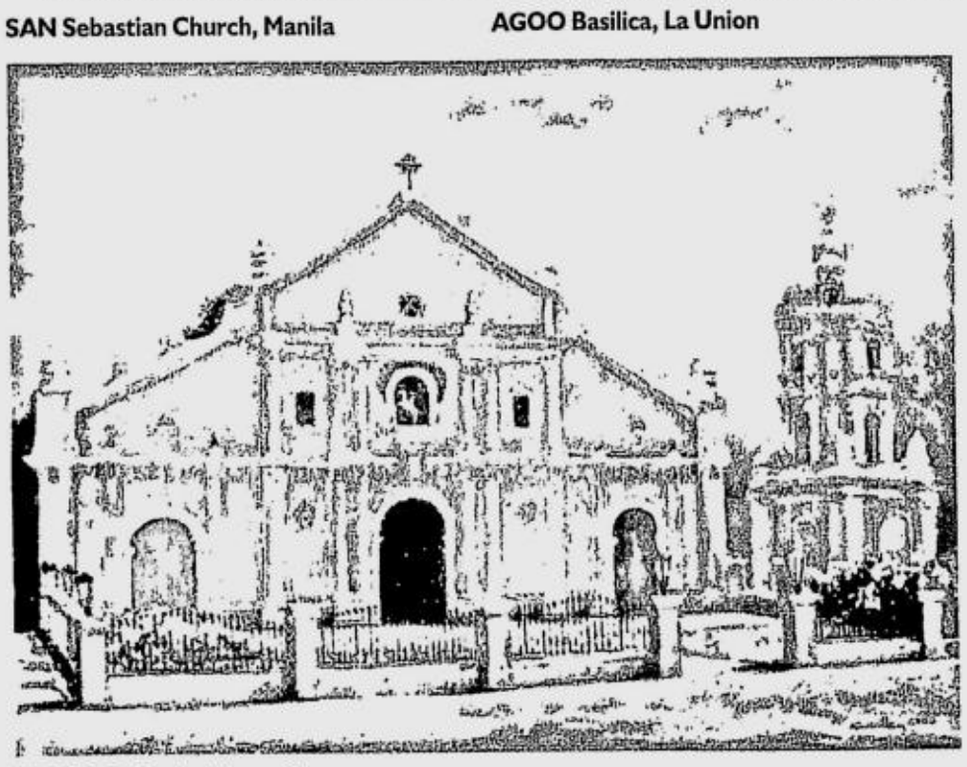
Her Ilocos church visits were supported by Department of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and Region I director Martin Valera.

Visit www.camilledelarosa.com.



SAN Sebastian Church, Manila

AGOO Basilica, La Union



VIGAN Cathedral, Ilocos Sur

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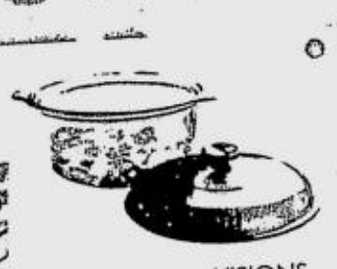

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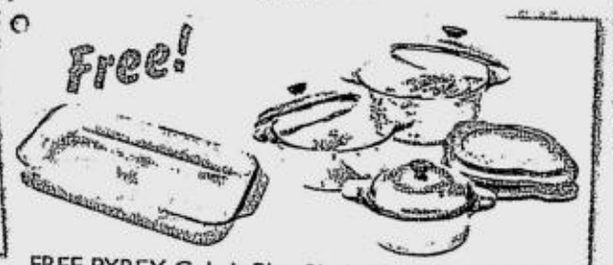

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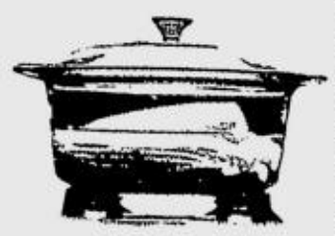

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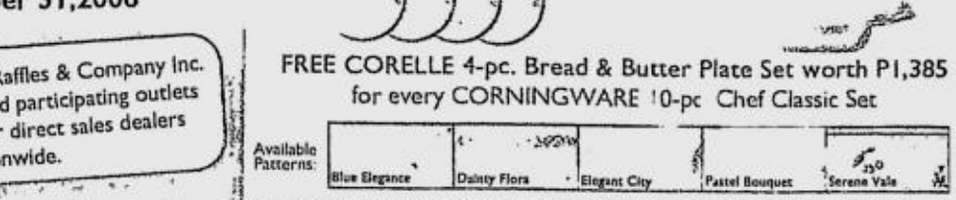

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BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

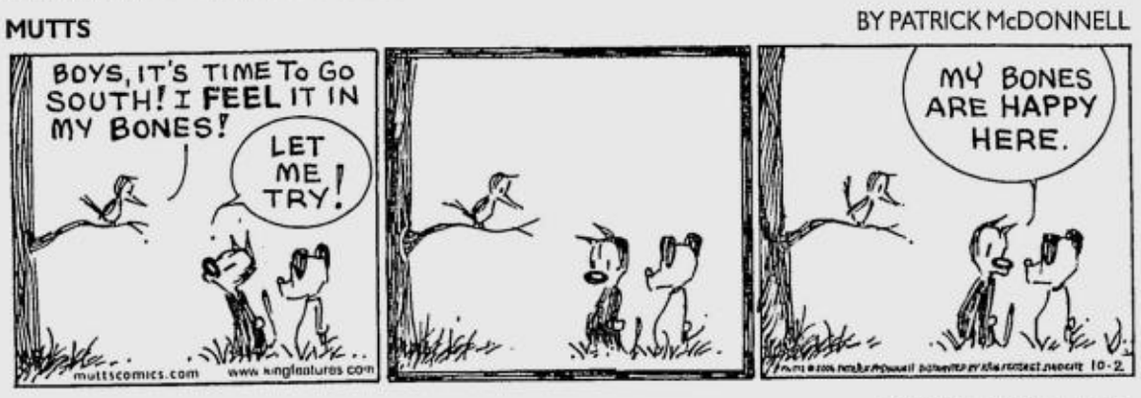
BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

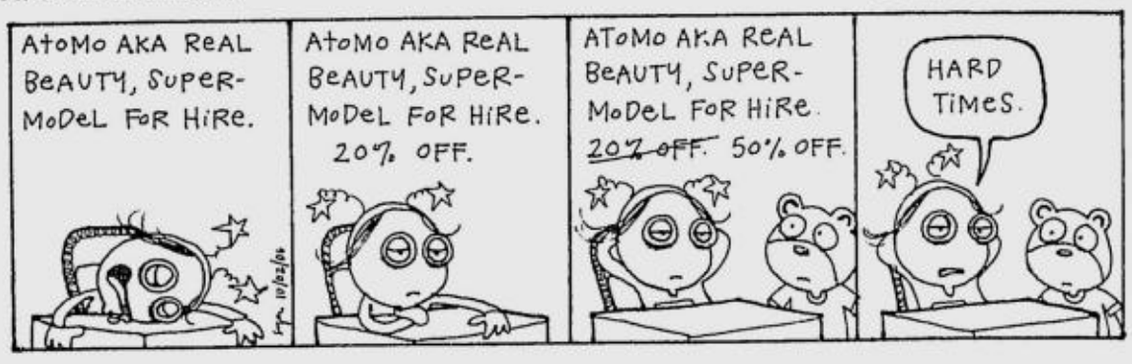


LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



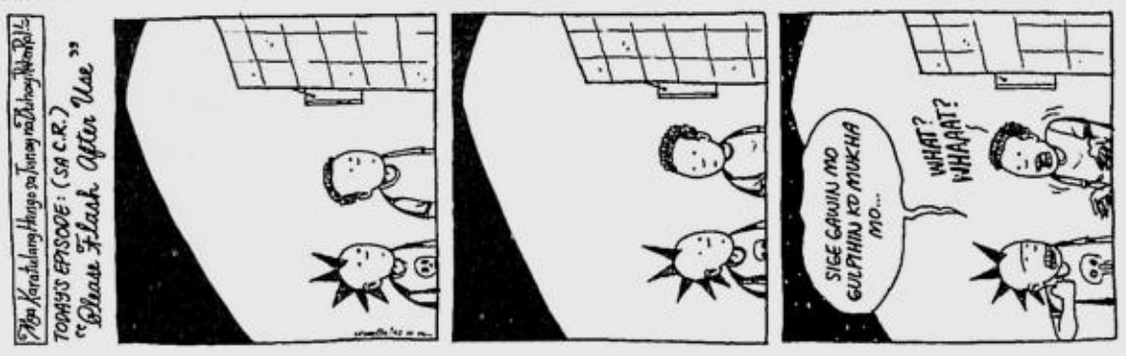
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

ISA SA PROBLEMANG HINAHARAP NG MGA PSYCHIC TUWING SILA AY MAG- "ASTRAL PROJECTION": BAKA KUNG BALIKAN NILA ANG KANILANG INIWANG KATAWAN, NA-DISECT NA ITO NG MGA MEDICAL STUDENTS

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

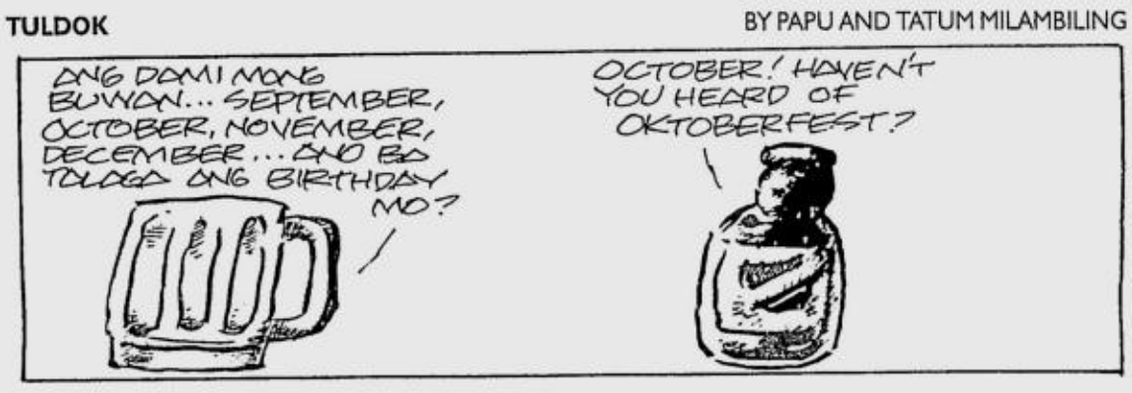


MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



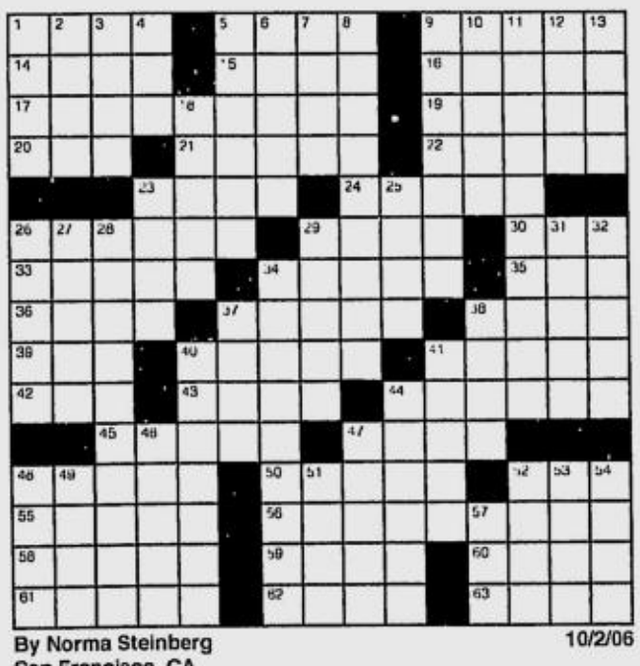
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

10/2/06



ACROSS
1 Barry, Maurice or Robin
5 Tool or wood follower
9 Skimpy skirts
14 Run in neutral
15 Had on
16 Hold it, sailor!
17 Mall neighborhood?
19 Proof of ownership
20 Thoughtful letters
21 Mount
22 Alter a skirt's length again
23 Bugler's farewell
24 Valerie Harper sitcom
26 2004 Olympics site
29 Cereal fiber
30 Cagers' org.
33 Church honoree
34 Convenes
35 Online yuks
36 Green stroke
37 Carried along
38 Magic stick
39 Tolkien tree
40 Wish for excessively
41 Self-indulgent spree
42 Final degree
43 Cafe au __
44 Lure
45 Eradicate
47 Farm building
48 Insertion mark
50 Incline
52 Hardly any
55 Circa
56 Lincoln's maiden voyage?
58 World-weary
59 Starter chips
60 Corrosive stuff
61 Passover meal
62 Surf sound
63 Chums

DOWN
1 Present
2 False god
3 Voting unit
4 River bottom
5 Swift descents
6 Pay-stub figure
7 Goofs
8 Big stick, e.g.
9 Female prison monitors
10 Like many campus halls
11 Broadway "Producer"
12 Capri or Man
13 Part of a wineglass
18 Repetitive slogan
23 Bivouac shelter
25 Despise
26 Quaking tree
27 Mockery
28 Tour successfully?
29 French topper
31 Kind of drum
32 Standish's competition
34 Matinee idol
37 Constricting serpents
38 Weakling
40 Rattling noise
41 Expressed disapproval
44 Whirlybird
46 Employ once again
47 __ del Sol
48 Hacks
49 Competent
51 Late night comic
52 Paycheck deduction fig.
53 Villainous
54 Ties the knot
57 Eminem's genre

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	C	A	W	S				C	U	R	S	E	D
A	P	O	G	E	E	S		P	A	L	E	A	L	E
P	H	I	L	L	I	E	P	H	A	N	A	T	I	C
P	A	N	E	D		D	N	A		A	R	E	T	E
E	S	C	E		J	O	I	S	T		M	L	I	I
D	I	O		S	I	N	N	E	R	S		L	S	T
	A	L	T	I	M	A		D	I	M	W	I	T	
		L	I	E	F				P	E	A	T		
	S	E	P	T	I	C		C	L	E	V	E	R	
M	O	C		E	X	H	A	L	E	S		D	A	R
A	L	T	O		X	E	R	O	X		S	I	T	U
R	A	I	L	S		R	O	T		P	I	S	A	N
B	R	O	O	K	L	Y	N	H	E	I	G	H	T	S
L	I	N	G	U	A	L		F	S	C	H	E	A	T
E	A	S	Y	A	S				P	A	S	S	T	O

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10/2/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're charming, witty and attractive. You display grace and gentleness; yet you're very tough inside. You're also frank, candid and erudite. You have a raw power that inspires others. You have endurance and perseverance. People respect you. In your early 20s, you become much more aggressive about going after what you want. Work hard this year for success in 2008.
Birthdate of: Sting, singer; Mahatma Gandhi, lawyer, social reformer; Lorraine Bracco, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lovely day for talking to acquaintances, groups, partners and your closest buddies. Everything seems to fall neatly into place. People are glad to see you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're briefly in the limelight today, and that's a good thing. Someone admires you for some reason. Whatever you do impresses people, especially at work. Yo!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): People from other cultures or distant places want to contact you today. (Or perhaps vice versa.) You might fall in love with somebody who is completely different from you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Gifts or assistance from others can improve your family situation or even improve where you live. It's a minor thing—but it's there. This definitely benefits you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your relationships with others flow easily today. This is a good day to sell, persuade or influence anyone. People are happy to see you!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. It's also a good day for shopping. If you buy something, it will be technological or very modern in some way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Get out and enjoy some entertaining activities today. Schmooze with friends. Enjoy playful activities with children. Flirtations are fun. Take a minivacation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your attempts to work with large institutions or deal with the government can be successful today. Nevertheless, work behind the scenes as much as possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a popular day! All kinds of people will enjoy meeting you. It's an excellent day for meetings, conferences and chatting with friends. Conversation flows easily!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You definitely shine in the eyes of others today. This is a good day to make a good impression on others. You can enhance your reputation and prestige with important people.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do something different today. Go someplace you've never been before, or sign up for a course. This is the perfect time to expand your experience of the world through travel and education.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Others are good to you today. They offer you assistance, gifts, favors and even outright cash. Lucky you! This is a good day to ask for a loan or to get a mortgage.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	7	3	1		9	6	2	
2								9
6			5		7			8
9		1	6		4	3		7
5		4	3		2	1		6
1			7		5			3
8								4
	9	7	8		6	2	5	

Difficulty Level ★ 10/02

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

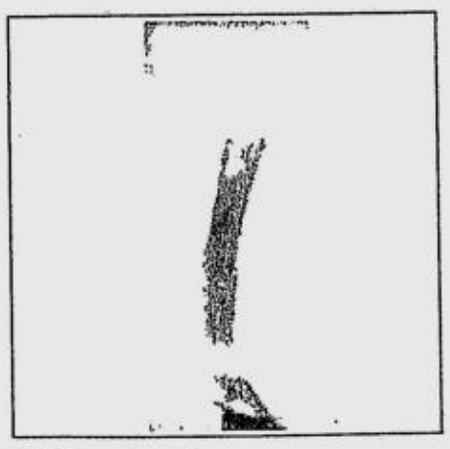
5	2	4	7	1	8	3	6	9
8	6	3	9	2	4	5	7	1
7	9	1	3	6	5	2	4	8
1	5	2	8	3	6	7	9	4
9	4	8	5	7	2	1	3	6
6	3	7	4	9	1	8	2	5
4	1	6	2	5	7	9	8	3
3	7	5	6	8	9	4	1	2
2	8	9	1	4	3	6	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Listening to Lao's silence

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

"HEAD"



"HEAD and Zen"

FRENCH PHILOSOPHER Jean-Louis Chrétien says it is "not with one's eyes but rather with one's whole being" that one looks at a painting. In looking, it is necessary "to draw near, to back away, to draw near and to back away again, and to be quiet and to stay still."

There is a silence of art. Art has to be listened to. And Lao Lianben's art has to be listened to if one is to hear its silence.

In his ongoing exhibit "Head & Zen" in Avellana Art Gallery, Lao's discreet silence turns eloquent. His silence speaks to you but only after you approach it in silence.

It would help then if you stole into the exhibit room by yourself. It would have to be at the moment, on opening night, when everybody else is busy, chattering away, partaking of food and drink at the reception area. Or, better still, to drop in at the exhibit at an odd hour of the day.

It is with our own silence that we are able to listen to the intimate silence of Lao's "Head & Zen." But what exactly is this silence? Perhaps it is the silence that comes from pressing one's head close to the ground. Like the reclining Buddha (whose large ears signify he is a fervent listener), one listens not only to one's heartbeat but to the very pulse of nature.

Lao teaches us the important lesson of silence. He teaches us this without words. Instead, he delivers before us a "Head" that appears like a burst of white cloud in its frame of a black column.

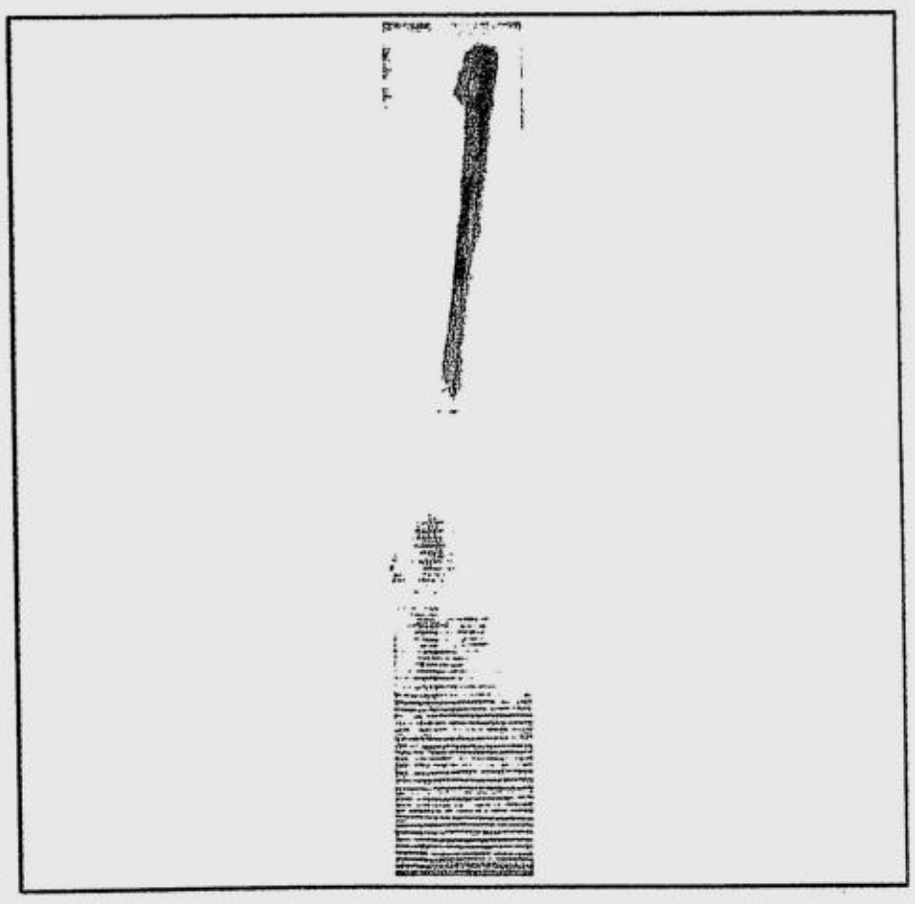
One can regard it as a "still life." It is a kind of "vanity" painting that obliges us to contemplate and remember our mortality. In "Head," one can almost make out the skull beneath the face.

In "Zen," Lao renders a black brushstroke on a white column with a serrated base. The brushstroke seems to gradually lose materiality as it slides down. It is so elementary and spare that one would think even a school child could do it. But of course, such painterly simplicity escapes the grasp of a child.

To attain this simplicity, the artist must let himself go, allow himself to be so absorbed in what he is doing that he forgets himself. This would be an attention without tension.

One loses oneself in rendering the invisible visible. One strips oneself of what is inessential. It is perhaps this nudity of the essential that has always fascinated painters, from both the East and the West.

To truly appreciate Lao's silence then, one has to be blessed with the patience to pay attention for a long time and the perseverance to listen for even a longer time. Only then perhaps can one finally hear the painting "Head and Zen" imploring you: "You must change your life!"



"ZEN"

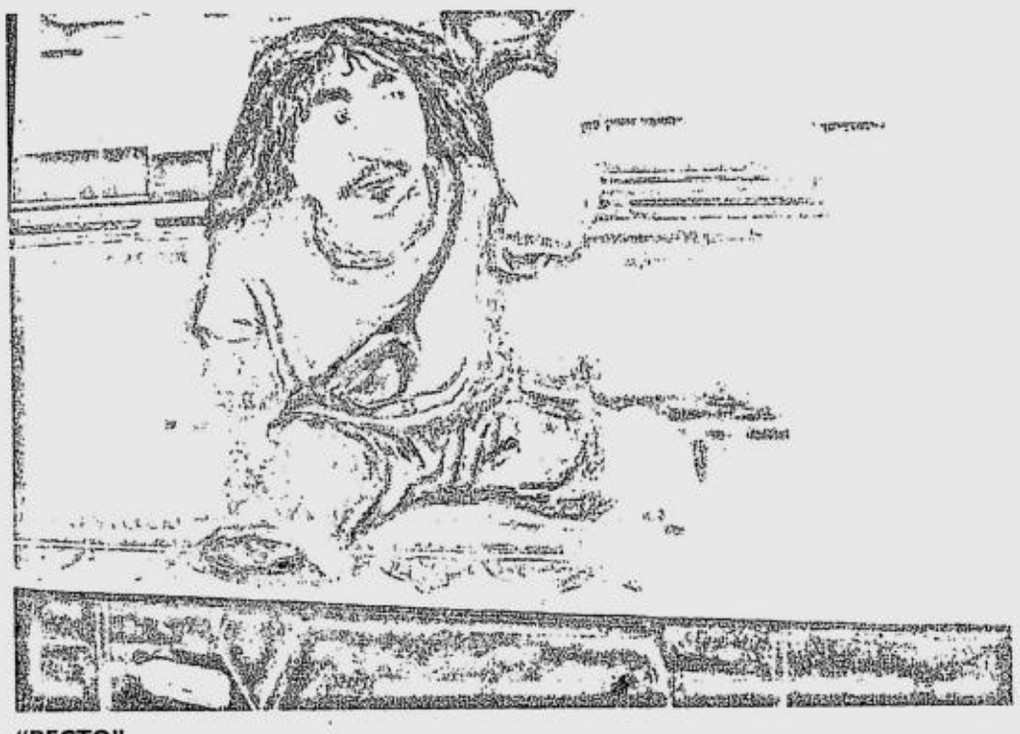
What Lao offers is food for thought. To borrow the lines of Carlomar Arcangel Daoana, who was perhaps stupefied in gazing at Lao's paintings:

When the dreaming head hits stone or pillow,
The world cracks, turns into void—
The typographical echo of thought.

Without meaning to, Lao changes your life—with his graphic silence that is, indeed, eloquent in its discretion.

Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 FB Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

E-mail the author at leovinogarcia @yahoo.com



"RECTO"

The ugliness and pathos of being human

By Constantino C. Tejero

AMONG THE WEIRDEST IMAGES TO appear in the art galleries recently were those comprising Jesus Genotiva's exhibit "Gamu-gamo."

Though it was only his first solo show, the young artist fairly impressed with his 12 pieces in oil on canvas, displayed in One Workshop Gallery, G/F, La Fuerza Plaza II, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Sabio St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City.

Genotiva has consistently produced nausea-inducing imagery, mostly saturated with blue and sometimes broken by red or yellow. Each piece simultaneously draws revulsion and pathos from the viewer.

These images are direct offshoots of the New Objectivism, with its bitter humor and biting social criticism. But in their emotive distortions and exaggerated coloration they also recall the expressionism of Edvard Munch.

"Barya," rendered in a harsh monochrome of incandescent blue, depicts a naked bald-headed figure of a beggar or *taong-grasa* pushed to a street corner. No longer human, merely a wraith, the huddling Munch-like figure looks as if afraid to go on living.

"BARYA"

An astonishing image is "Recto," showing the interior of a jeepney plying Recto Avenue, with an armless, legless passenger hanging on to the handrail. The piece is quite detailed, one can even espy two gold rings on the red seat, an empty plastic bottle underneath it, and the globular street lamps outside.

This grotesque image of a man defiantly living despite physical disabilities recalls the cripples, whores and working-class people inhabiting the canvases of Otto Dix.

"Torotot" and "Bag Lady" employ the mounds of flesh of Lucian Freud but now in sickening blue. "Bag Lady" has a bonus commentary, as the naked woman's red-and-white-striped plastic bags look suspiciously like the American flag.

It also slyly appears as a bag carried by the stray dog in "Askal." But more disturbing is another small detail—a golden pile of human feces behind the dog, which also appears behind the naked trumpeter in "Torotot."

In "Puwersa," the gruesome figures, masks, demonic visages and strange goings-on, including the pageant-like composition, are reminiscent of the dismal spectacles of James Ensor.

Surely the most dumbfounding piece is "Pipi," depicting a naked blue woman gagged and bound to a red chair. Here the Freudian human flesh has been exaggerated to such an extent it threatens to spill out of the canvas.

This terrifying image of bondage recalls the nightmare scenes of torture and degradation of Max Beckmann.

Genotiva says these are his portraits of the deprived and the downtrodden, the voiceless, the sightless, the limbless. In other words, a portrait of powerlessness.

To him the urban poor are like the moth which is attracted to the light, so do they flock to the city risking all for a little comfort and pleasure, ignoring their inevitable destruction. Thus, *gamu-gamo*.

A graduate of Fine Arts, major in Advertising, from Philippine Women's University, Genotiva shows in only his first solo exhibit that he is an artist to reckon with.

His bold image-making and penetrating vision are particularly impressive. We look forward to the making of a major talent.

Joyful t(, and hearty art

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE FERVID COLORIST IN FERnando Sena has returned to his past love—toys.

The subject first surfaced in 2002 when Sena painted stuffed dolls and motorized toy cars, captured in their hyperrealist presence, in multitudinous colors, forms, shapes and textures, evoking memories of his late wife Nancy, a literature professor at the State University who died in 1998 from breast cancer, and their sons Oddin and Roald.

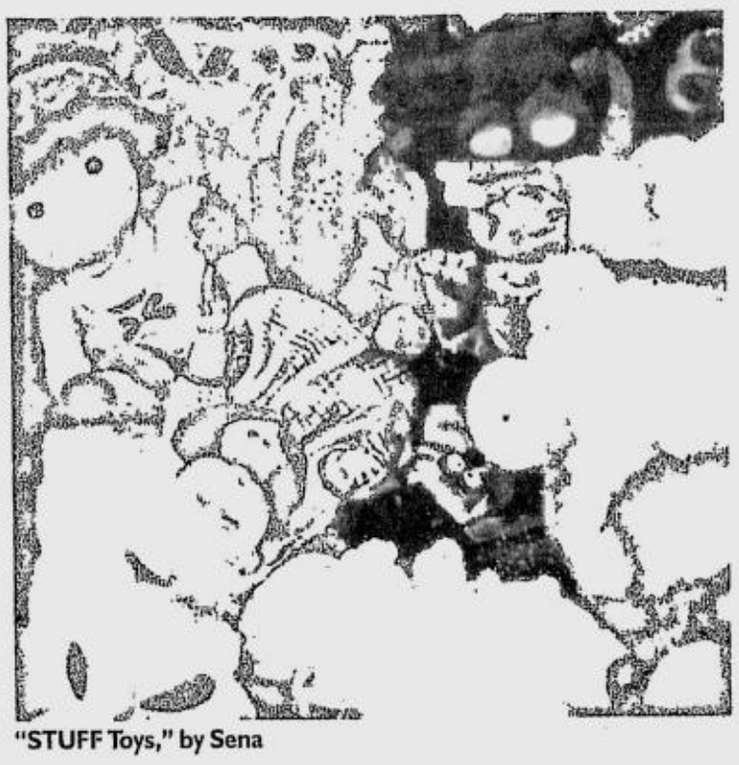
Both his sons have now outgrown the toys, but the artist has rediscovered them, a most fitting subject for still lifes.

Sena is better known as a mentor and teacher to many an aspiring artist, having coached hundreds of children and adults alike, in workshops and art classes for three decades now. He has also offered his services to poor communities all over the country, often donating proceeds of his shows to his favorite charities.

Having risen from poverty, through dint of hard work and perseverance, Sena keeps going back to his roots in working-class Tondo. The realm of Sena's art encompasses the everyday life of the Pinoy, whose fruits of toil literally pop out of the canvases.

From food-strewn tables to cabinets and pantries bursting with goodies, the otherwise neglected spaces in the average household become the apotheosis of the Pinoy pop culture in Sena's art. It is his way of infusing life into an otherwise lifeless subject.

"ANIMAL Toys," by Fernando Sena



"STUFF Toys," by Sena

"ABS-CBN Dancer" I, by Gene de Loyola

Sena's obsession with toys transcends the physical realm, for these objects, in a higher plane of interpretation, exude a life of their own, the artist's childlike belief in the goodness of humanity.

On another level, these toys, fittingly captured in all their jangled and jumbled universe, have posed a challenge to the artist, who always seeks to paint order in the face of chaos.

In canvas after canvas, the viewer is mesmerized by the spectacle of building blocks piled one on top of another, stuffed toys (bears mostly) and toy cars and trucks that seem to have collided. And the colors strike a heavenly note, a profusion of powder-blue, baby-pink, mint-green, terra cotta and what-have-you.

Finally, by purging himself of the ramparts of pain and sorrow that he has gone through in life, Sena, true optimist and believer in the goodness of the human heart, has finally moved forward. Like the effervescent child, he has taken a giant leap to the next stage of his artistic journey.

Gene de Loyola

Another artist who is haunted by past jaunts is Gene de Loyola, who excels in portraiture, landscapes and subjects with social-realist themes.

In the '70s, De Loyola rode on the crest of the sociopolitical struggle, a committed SR in the mold of Adi Baen Santos, Antipas Delotavo and Edgar Fernandez.

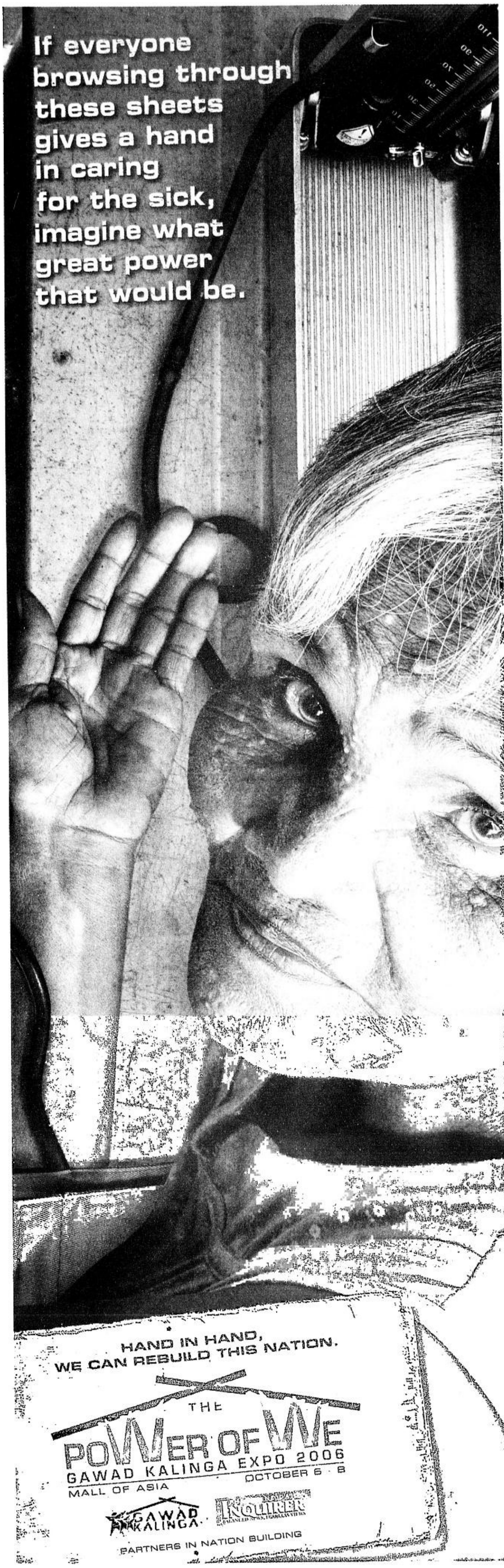
In his current show of 30 works, encompassing three mediums (ink, pastel and watercolor), the artist shows the multifarious forces at play in his art-making: memory and vision, art and life, past and future —all intertwined in a postmodern motif.

Though the artist's rage may have mellowed with age, especially in his sociopolitical beliefs, his approach to art remains as exuberant as ever.

There are on-the-spot sketches drawn from fleeting moments, as those of dancers gyrating in noontime shows, pastel drawings of people and places he has come across on his itinerant and hyperactive stage, and of luscious watercolors that do justice to the medium and the subjects, captured in their multifaceted humanity.

It is a tribute to an artist who has, indeed, lived and who still lives in art.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



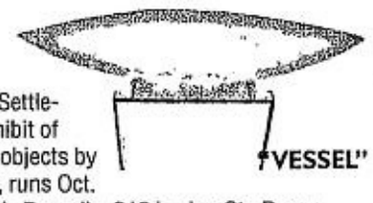
VISUAL ARTS

"WILD Man's Bonfire," by Ignacio

Syjuco, Ignacio at Blue Room

Cesare Syjuco and Raffy Ignacio present "Art in the Time of Rocket Science," Oct. 6, in Blue Room Art Gallery, 1354 Lacuna cor. Apolinario Sts., Bangkal, Makati. Curator Jevijoe Vitug describes the show as "one that defies straightforward interpretation... a launch vehicle for ideological destruction in an age of uncertainty." Call 7510746.

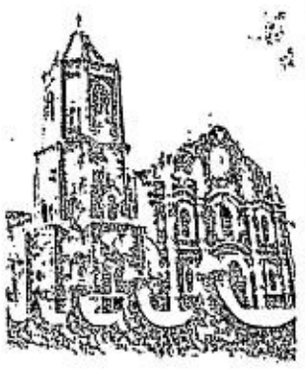
Farol at Duemila


"VESSEL"

"Evidence of Settlement," an exhibit of glass art and objects by Noëll El Farol, runs Oct. 7-30 at Galleria Duemila, 210 Loring St., Pasay City. El Farol "excavates" and "gathers" evidence to represent objects dominantly sculptured in glass, silica material and other materials representing evidence of historical past. Call 8339815.

Bueza at GSIS Museum

Emmanuel Bueza presents "Paragon," an exhibit of over 50 pen-and-ink and oil-on-canvas pieces, at the GSIS Museo ng Sining, Financial Center, Pasay City. The exhibit features scenes of the colorful Pahiyas festival of Lucban, landmarks and old houses in Laguna and Quezon. The exhibit runs until Oct. 28.


"LUCBAN Church"

Castrillo at CCP, UST

The Cultural Center of the Philippines presents an exhibit of drawings by sculptor Eduardo Castrillo, "Castrillo at 40: From the Drawing Board," Oct. 5-31. The exhibit features drawings of the sculptor's monuments and religious pieces, architectural ideas, abstract and body-art sculptures. Call 8323702.

Ongoing until Oct. 30 is "Conceptualizing Symbols of Heritage," showcasing Castrillo's nationalist and historical monuments, at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences. Opening on Oct. 16 is "Facets of Style, Medium and Form," at the Yuchengco Museum Lobby and Courtyard; and in December, "Castrillo at 40: New Works" at the Choice Expression Gallery, 2/F, 122 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati.

Veneracions at Mag:net

"PAINTING for the Blind," by Mik Veneracion

Roy Veneracion and his sons Ian and Mik will hold an exhibit, "3 Man Show," featuring their recent works on canvas, Oct. 3-31, at Mag:net ABS-CBN, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compund, QC. Call 4100995 or e-mail magnet-cafekatips@yahoo.com.ph or visit www.magnet.com.ph.

Robles at Heritage

Clarinetist Beatriz Robles fuses music and the visual arts in "Cymbaliic Xplosion: When Music and Art Collide," at Heritage Gallery, Artwalk, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The exhibit features eight soft pastels on paper in vibrant colors, on figures of musical instruments and notes. The exhibit runs until Oct. 7. Call 8424807.

"HARP Harmony"

Potters at Art Space

Ugu Bigyan, Jon Pettyjohn and Jaime de Guzman will showcase their latest stonewares with the new generation of emerging artist potters such as Lope Bosaing, Jeff Van den Broeck, Pablo Capati, Pete Cortes, Joey de Castro and Sammy Kilat. The exhibit will run Oct. 3-11 at the Art Space, 3/L, Glorietta 4. Call 7292980.

Ongchangco at Crucible

"ANOTHER Day with You Again"

Carlo Ongchangco uses rigid lines and shapes to paint graceful structures and designs in "A Arte de Adorar," Oct. 3-15, at Crucible Gallery, 4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. A graduate of Interior Design from UST, Ongchangco is influenced by Arturo Luz and Malang. Call 6356061.

"PETAL Attraction" by Pete Jimenez

Jimenez at Mag:net

Pete Jimenez presents iron sculptures in "Scrapyard," Oct. 5-31, at Mag:net Gallery Paseo. The title refers to the origin of the works' genesis: the scrapyard. Visit www.magnet.com.ph.

Pasig church . . .

From page D1

ing work of correcting previous damage to the structure.

Architect Michael Manalo, who holds a rare (for the Philippines) MA in Architectural Conservation from Inah—Escuela Nacionál de Conservación, Restauración, y Museografía in Mexico—leads the team.

Manalo has completed many architectural conservation projects in the country. He is also a professor at the Cultural Heritage Studies program of the University of Santo Tomas.

Tats Manahan is the second team member. She graduated from the Centro Europeo per i Formazioni degli Artigiani in Venice and has been active in restoration of historic architectural painting and finishing.

She was the painting and finishing consultant for the conservation of the Gota de Leche building in Manila, one of the Unesco Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage awardees in 2003.

Christian Aguilar is the third team member. His degree in design, paint and color was earned at the Fachhochschüle Hildesheim/Holzminder in Germany.

With its team of highly qualified specialist consultants, the Pasig church conservation project sets high standards. It is definitely a project to watch.

Built by the Augustinians, the stone Church of the Immaculate Conception in Pasig is said to date from circa 1639. Pedigree was no guarantee against aging badly, which is what happened to the church.

Misguided, botched restoration or modernization jobs carried out one after another had taken their toll on the structure until practically the entire church was in need of conservation.

Nobody was to blame individually. The succession of parish priests, completely unaware of the cultural significance of their church, remodeled and built at will and at whim.

Wishing to reverse the church's recurring history of correcting a bad facelift with a worse one, the current parish priest, Fr. Roy Rosales, called Manalo to step in and correct the situation.

They decided that the first phase of the work plan would be to conserve the church's façade, caked with layer upon layer of concrete facelifts that smoothed over the outstanding craftsmanship of the architectural detailing that once stood out on the façade.

Concrete is totally incompatible with the lime-based mortar used in Spanish colonial structures. The acidity of cement steadily eats into lime to the point of weakening the old material.

Therefore, the conservation process for the Pasig church began with careful peeling of the layers of concrete from the façade either until reaching the remains of the original stucco wall covering or until uncovering the original stone beneath the stucco.

The next step should have been to simply replaster the façade with lime-based plaster after laboratory analysis duplicates the mix, formulation and consistency of the original plastering material. However, an intermediate step had to be undertaken.

After removing the cement layer, structural defects were discovered. Many of the 17th-century adobe stones on the façade revealed advanced deterioration. Now the decayed stone required upgrading.

Such unplanned discoveries normally occur, adding delay to conservation. Each project comes with its own nuances.

There was not much construction standardization during the Spanish colonial days. Materials were normally gathered from the neighboring surroundings. Types of stone, lime, mortar, wood and other materials varied from project to project.

Since conservation authenticity requires duplicating the original construction material, and, if not possible, using modern material compatible with the original, the issue of paint finishing was debated.

Commercially available paint was not an option since the material is more decorative than protective, and not formulated for application on lime-plastered walls.

A search yielded the best paint—a mineral-based, protective, washable paint imported from Germany. The last step necessary joins technology with tradition.

Local craftsmen will be trained in the application of the paint using traditional brush strokes coupled with a certain wrist action. The paint specialists have told me the method guarantees a translucent color wash that is easy on the eye.

That is something I am waiting to see.

What makes the Pasig church conservation project outstanding is how each consultant brings a distinct orientation—Mexican, Venetian, or German—but in the process of their collaboration, they are succeeding in developing an approach applicable to Philippine conditions, something the young conservation profession in the country needs.

E-mail the author at pride.place@gmail.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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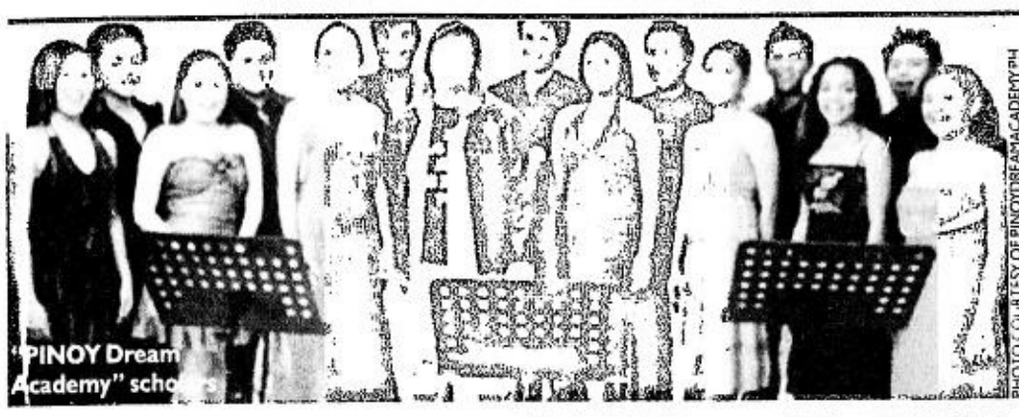


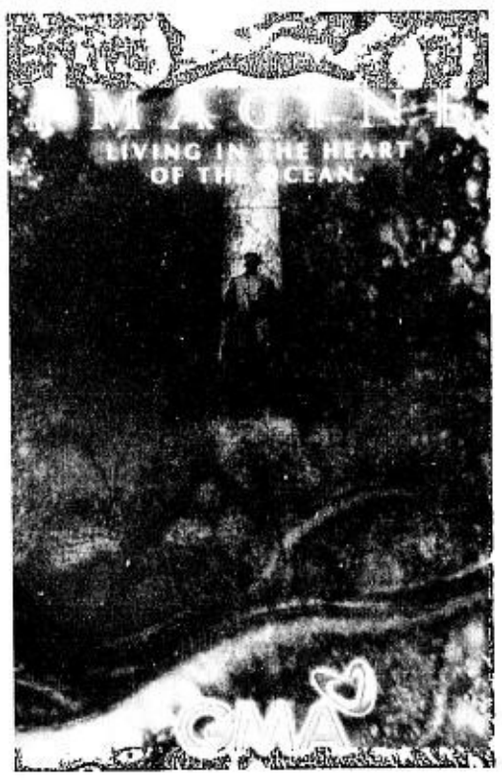
"PINOY Dream Academy" scholars

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINOYDREAMACADEMY.PH

'Now, it's about talent'

'PBB' psychologist assumes post as guidance counselor on 'Pinoy Dream Academy'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



DR. RANDY DELLOSA, WHO acted as resident psychologist in the past three editions of the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother," also signed up as "guidance counselor" on "Pinoy Dream Academy," the talent search version of the "PBB" franchise.

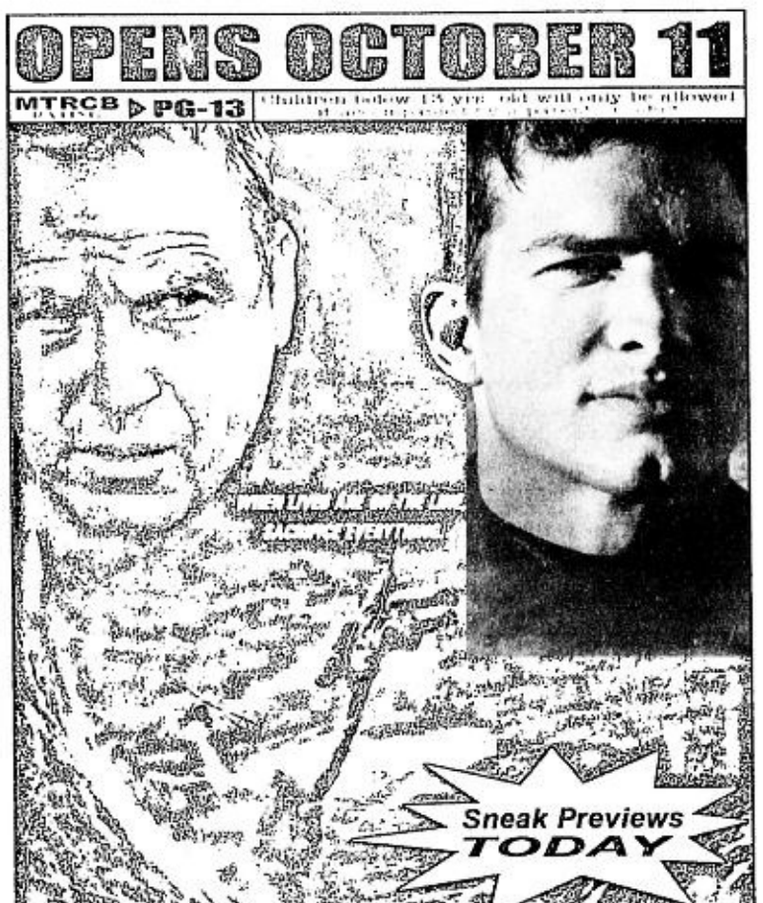
Asked to single out the main difference between the past reality shows and the current one, Dellosa told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview: "This time, it's about talent."

That is not to say that the three previous editions of "PBB" featured talent-less housemates.

"'PDA's scholars are more focused than the 'PBB' housemates because this is a talent competition," he explained. "There has to be potential from the start, unlike in the previous editions wherein very little talent was involved [in the selection process]."

He described the scholars as "very determined to achieve their

NOW/ E5



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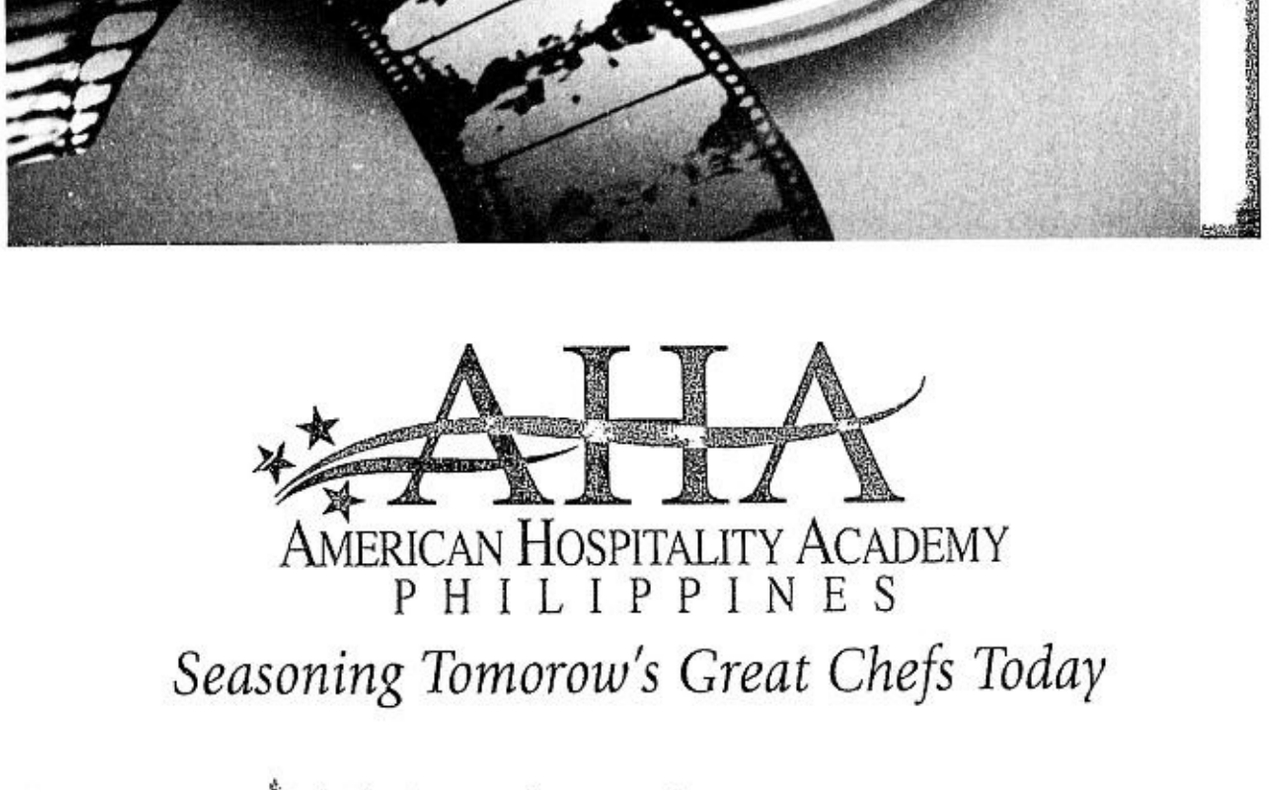

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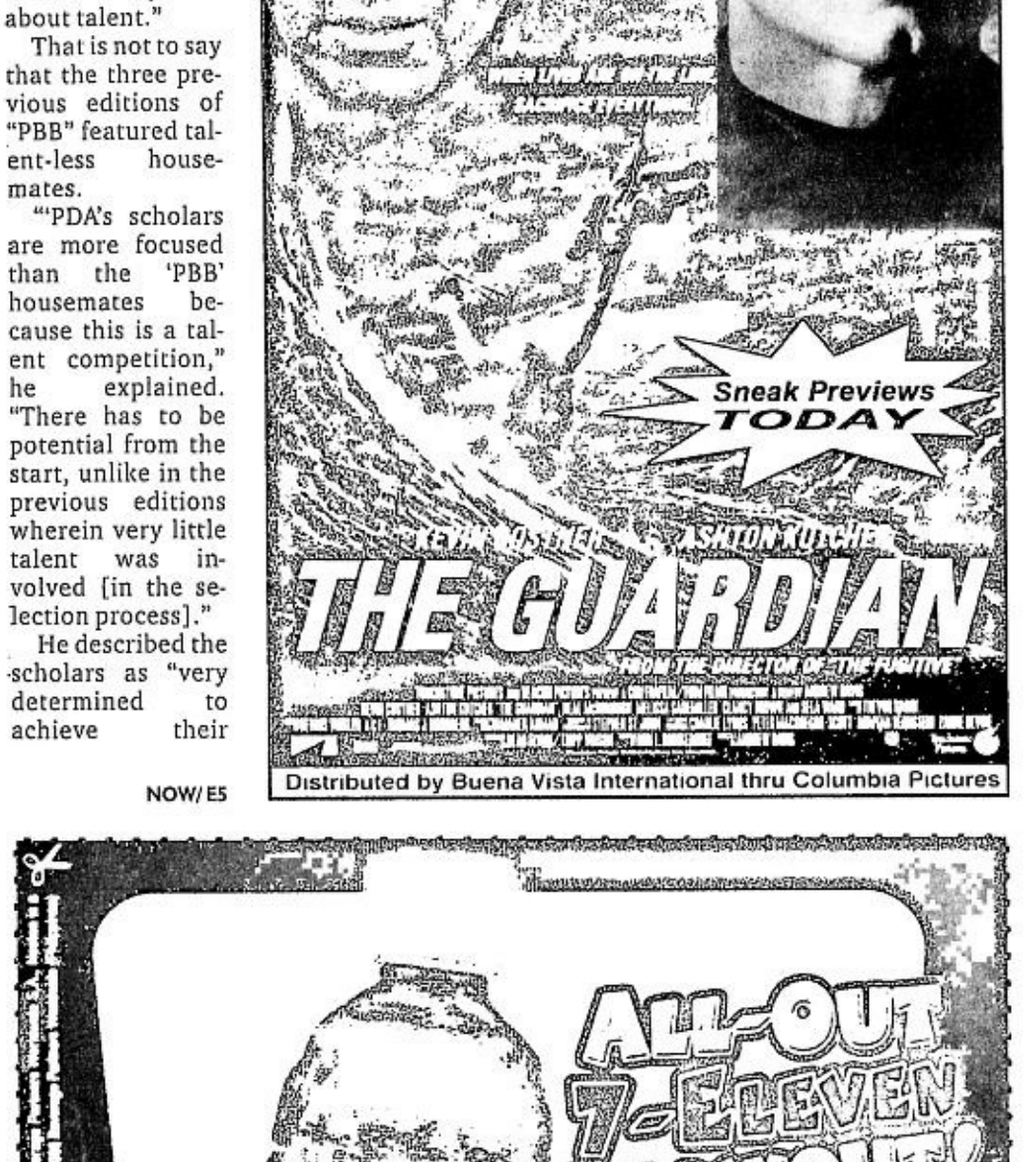

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1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • THX
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

2 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 FLY BOYS
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

4 ZOOM
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

5 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 DEAD OR ALIVE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

8 THE BREED
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

9 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 1436-7809 to 12

1 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
THE BREED
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

3 ZOOM
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4 FLY BOYS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 DEAD OR ALIVE
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

7 THE GUARDIAN
Sneak Preview

METRO EAST 682-8193 to 682-8199

1 THE BREED
1:30 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 FIRST DAY HIGH
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:10

3 THE GUARDIAN
Sneak Preview

4 ZOOM
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

5 DEAD OR ALIVE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

7 FLY BOYS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

8 STEP UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES 426-3241 to 426-3249

1 FLY BOYS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview

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2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 CRANK
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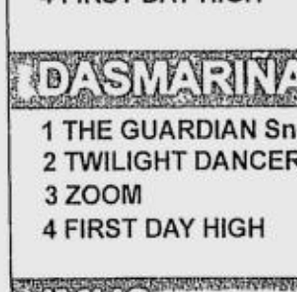
1 CRANK
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 THE WICKER MAN



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'Open Season'

IN SONY PICTURES Animation's first feature film "Open Season," the odd are about to get even.

Boog (Martin Lawrence), a domesticated grizzly bear with no survival skills, has his perfect world turned upside down when he meets Elliot (Ashton Kutcher), a scrawny, fast-talking mule deer.

When Elliot convinces Boog to leave his cushy home in a park ranger's garage to try a taste of the great outdoors, things quickly spiral out of control.

Relocated to the forest with the open season only three days away, Boog and Elliot must acclimate in a hurry.

Opening soon, 'Open Season' is distributed by Columbia Pictures.

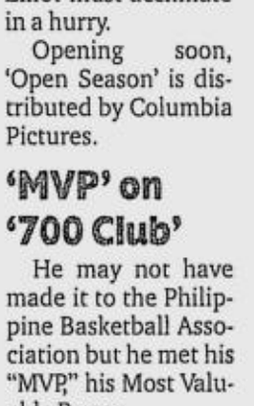
'MVP' on '700 Club'

He may not have made it to the Philippine Basketball Association but he met his "MVP," his Most Valuable Person.

After his short stint in show biz and after losing his chance to play for the Purefoods team because of an illness, BJ Manalo, a former UAAP star from De La Salle University, has dedicated his life to sharing the "good news" to both amateur and professional basketball players.

"The 700 Club Asia" airs his story on Oct. 3, 11:30 p.m. on QTV 11.

Peter Kairuz and Felichi Pangilinan-Buizon host.



CLAUDINE Barretto

'Lagot Ka' anniversary

This October, GMA 7's Monday night sitcom "Lagot Ka... Isusumbong Kita" celebrates its third anniversary with five special episodes.

Claudine Barretto guests in tonight's episode as Cleo, a princess who hides as simple lass in her attempt to elude her wedding to a man she doesn't love.

On Oct. 9, the third and final stretch of the Smart Amazing Challenge in Davao airs, with Andrew Wolff and Rochelle Pangilinan.

Miriam Quiambao guests as the gang takes their Asian cruise on Oct. 16.

The Oct. 23 episode shot in Singapore guests Lucy Torres-Gomez. On Oct. 30, the gang lands in Malaysia where rich lad Robert (Wendell Ramos) falls for Madame Tusha.

'Hi-5' on video

KID FIT

"HI-5," DESCRIBED AS "A CUTTING-edge show for today's media-literate children," is now available on video.

The series features five young performers—Nathan Foley, Tim Harding, Kellie Hoggart, Charli Robinson and Kathleen de Leon.

The show is divided into several segments. Each cast member leads a different segment focusing on important developmental learning concepts across all educational categories—from logical thinking and math to music and linguistics.

The hosts are joined by puppets Chatterbox and Jup Jup.

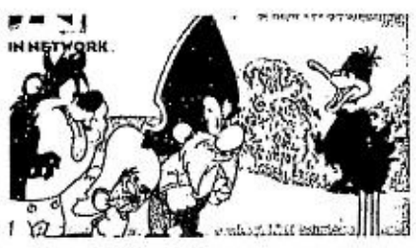
The videos, priced at P150 (VCD) and P199 (DVD), are available at all video stores nationwide.

Animated treats

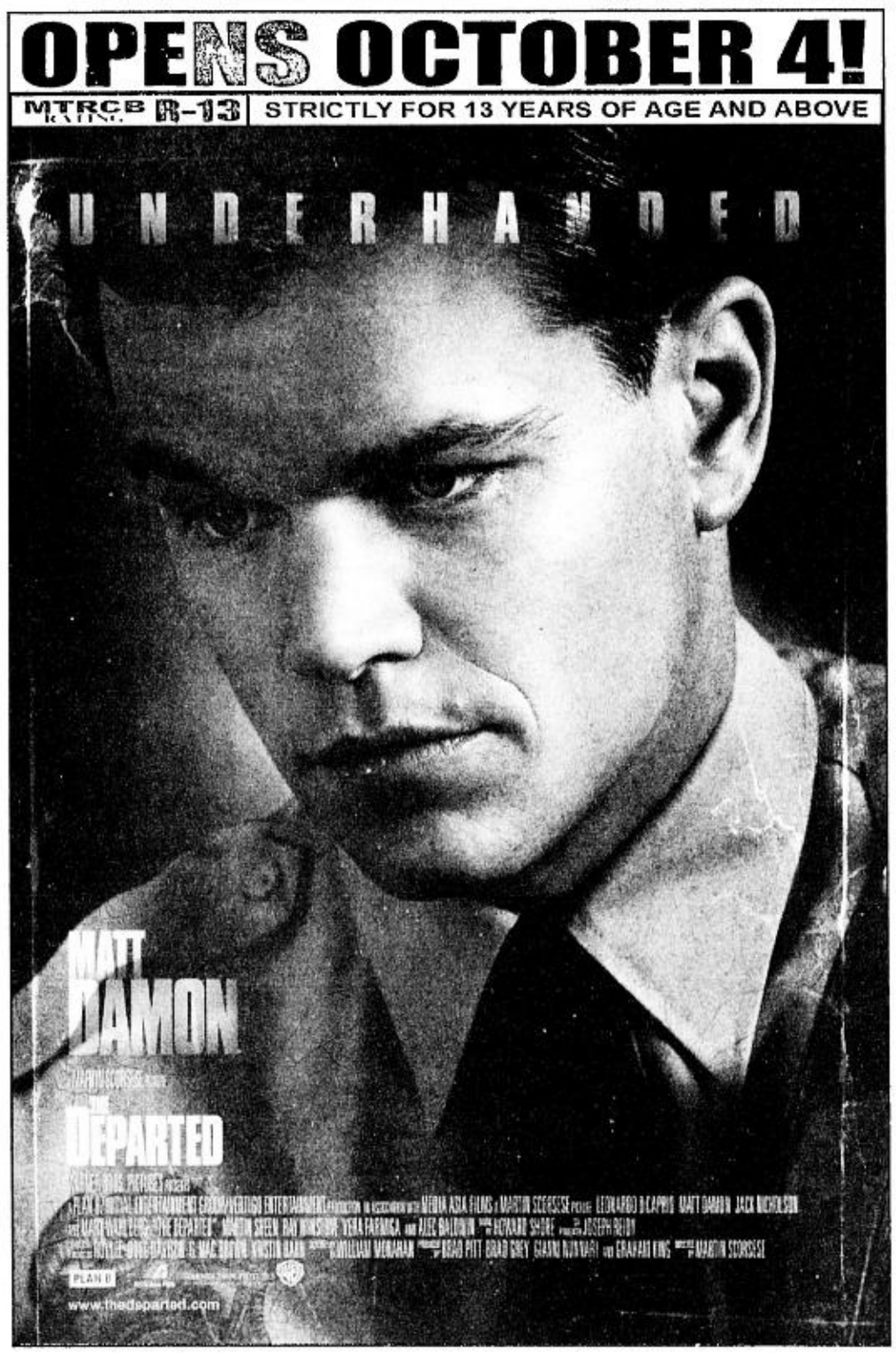
Playing every weekend at 8 a.m., Cartoon Network Theater treats viewers to eight animated features every month.

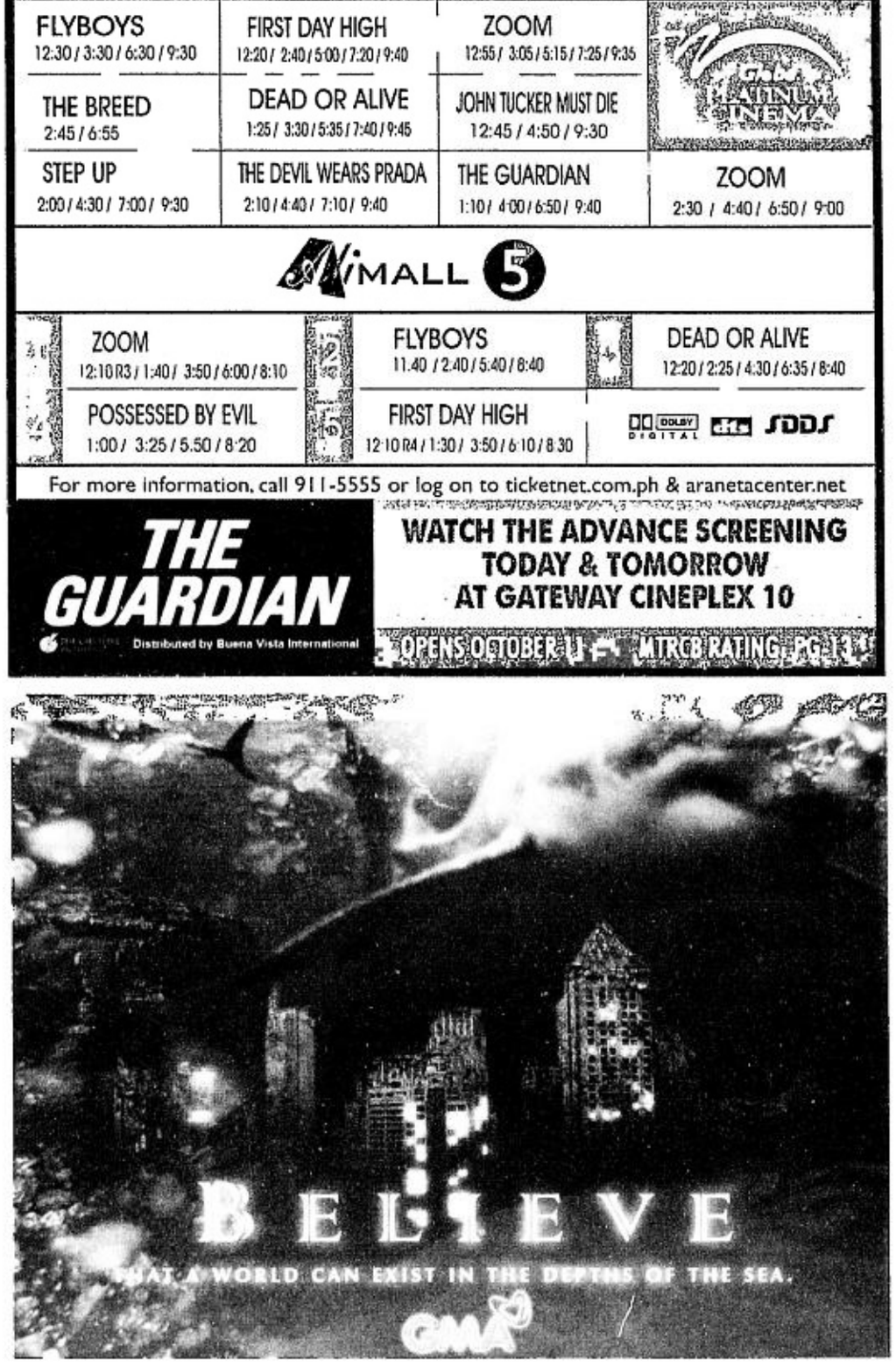
This October, Cartoon Network takes viewers on a series of magical adventures including "Bratz: Genie Magic" on Oct. 7, "1001 Rabbit Tales" on Oct. 8, "Barbie on Swan Lake" on Oct. 14, "Barbie and the Magic of Pegasus" on Oct. 15, "Tom & Jerry and the Magic Ring" on Oct. 21 and "Daffy Duck's Fantastic Island" on Oct. 22.

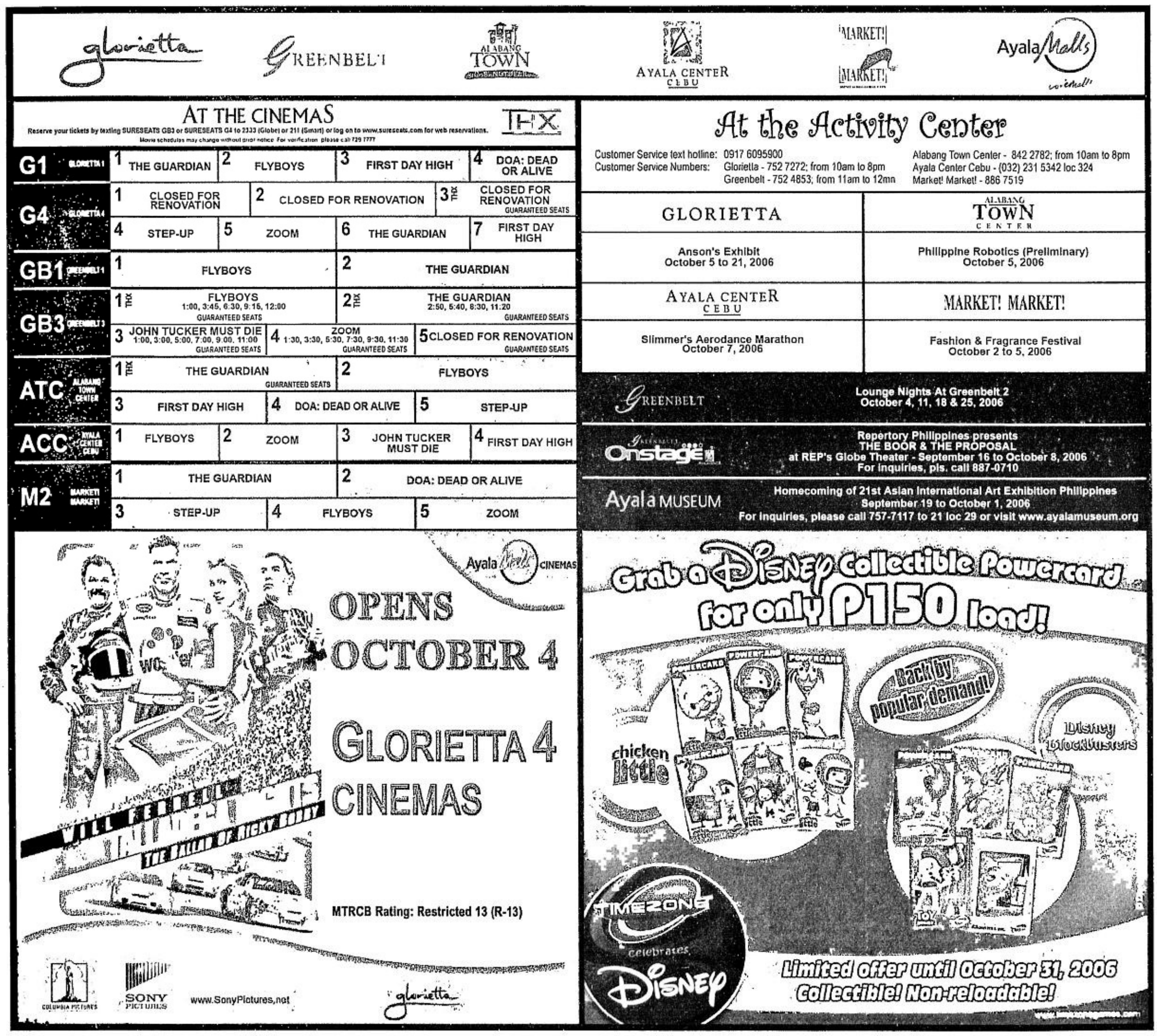
On Halloween weekend, "Scooby-Doo and the Legend of the Vampire" on Oct. 28 and "Alvin and the Chipmunks Meet Frankenstein" on Oct. 29.



"DAFFY Duck's Fantastic Island"







'The Guardian' drags on like a slow boat ride

From page E6

tizing Ben that he's dispatched to the classroom at the Coast Guard's elite school, where he oversees the instruction of a fresh crop of swimmers.

Ben applies unconventional training methods to prepare the wannabe rescuers, who include arrogant recruit Jake Fischer (Kutcher), a high-school swimming champ with a tragic past of his own.

Clash and bond

The two men clash, bond, clash some more, and gradually build a sort of father-son relationship of respect and affection. And of course, they eventually must team up for a daring rescue in the Bering Sea that pounds the movie's theme of self-sacrifice home with a sledgehammer.

Costner plays his typical hybrid of grizzly bear and teddy bear, though as with everything else about "The Guardian," his likable grouch act wears thin simply because it all plods on so long.

Aiming to show he can be more than a clown, Kutcher overdoes the gung-ho disciple routine, his Jake coming off so stiffly at times that he's like the poster boy for a recruitment ad.

Screenwriter Ron L. Brinkerhoff's predictable script leaves both actors treading water. The two characters are clumsily presented as essentially the same man at different stages, down to their calamitous pasts and their relationships with women (Sela Ward for Costner and Melissa Sagemiller for Kutcher), who also could be the same person a couple of decades apart.

Kutcher and Sagemiller are stuck muttering insufferably bland mating-ritual small talk, while the filmmakers tack on an awkward postscript to wrap their relationship up with a pretty bow.

Standouts

Bonnie Bramlett highlights the supporting cast as a crusty, rusty bar owner who's an old pal of Ben's. Neal McDonough and Clancy Brown are the standouts among the fellow Guardsmen, though John Heard as the training-school commander and Dule Hill as a recruit seem to have gone under the knife in the editing room, their roles amounting to little more than walk-ons.

It's uncertain whether "The Guardian" could have been salvaged with more cuts, particularly of the excessive training montages and banal interpersonal moments. But at least viewers would not have had to spend so much time in icy waters if Davis had aborted the mission quicker.

"The Guardian," released by Disney's Touchstone Pictures, runs 139 minutes. Two stars out of four. *David Germain, AP*

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5 THE GUARDIAN(SNEAK PREVIEW)
6 ZOOM
7 FLY BOYS
8 THE BREED
9 POSSESSED BY EVIL
10 FIRST DAY HIGH

Blue Wave MALL CINEMA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Rita, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 ZOOM
3 THE GUARDIAN(SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 ZOOM

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK
3 STAY ALIVE
4 RESERVED

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(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 ZOOM
3 DEAD OR ALIVE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 ZOOM
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
FIRST DAY HIGH
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 ZOOM
4 THE WICKER MAN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MIAMI VICE
2 CRANK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6565 or 72
1 THE GUARDIAN(SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 FLY BOYS
3 ZOOM
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 RESERVED
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 ZOOM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 CRANK
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 CRANK
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 TAKE MY BODY
2 SCOOP
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 IRA
3 LINGO LANG ANG PAHINGA
4 SCOOP
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 STORMBREAKER
2 THE GUARDIAN(SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 KANGKONG
5 ZOOM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0798
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 YOU ME & DUPREE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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2 DOS EXIS

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THE MOST INSPIRING UNDERDOG STORY OF THE YEAR!
HE'S SOMEONE NOBODY CARED ABOUT... UNTIL SHE CAME ALONG
AMERICA'S #1 HIT MOVIE!
Love begins with a first step.
Step Up
Channing Tatum star of "SHE'S THE MAN" Jenna Dewan star of "TAKE THE LEAD"

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MAN'S BEST FRIEND IS HIS WORST NIGHTMARE.
A WES CRAVEN PRODUCTION
THE BREED
DIRECTED BY NICK MASTANDREA
NOW SHOWING

OPENS ON WEDNESDAY
A FRIEND SENT THEM AN EMAIL FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE. NOW THE DEAD HAVE A DOORWAY TO OUR WORLD.
There are some frequencies we were never meant to find.

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2ND WEEK
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Ayala Malls CINEMAS
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
KEVIN COSTNER
ASHTON KUTCHER
GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FIGHTER"
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GLORIETTA 3 GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 4 ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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MTRCB Rating: PG-13
THE GUARDIAN
glorietta

SECOND gala night for the wannabes: Are they ready for the big league?

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINOYDREAMACADEMY.PH

'Now, it's about talent'

From page E1

goals, namely, to hone their talents and to be considered among the top in their league."

But in spite of their promise, the scholars are handicapped by "psychological blocks that hinder them from being the best performer they can be," Dellosa pointed out.

These blocks range "from personality quirks to nuances brought about by the highly competitive environment."

"Some have difficulty with loneliness. They miss their loved ones. Others tone down their talent because they don't want to be perceived as a threat by other scholars," he related.

That, he said, could very well be a competition strategy.

"If they show off their best right away, they might get voted off by fellow scholars," he remarked. "Others refrain from giving their all because they are afraid of disappointing their teachers and the audience. They are intimidated by them."

Another "hindrance," said Dellosa, is the blooming romance among scholars, specifically, between Iya Ginez and Jay-R Siaboc.

> Dr. Randy says: 'Some are equipped to handle celebrity; others are not... Away from the spotlight, it's okay to go back to being normal'

"Love affairs may distract them from their objectives," Dellosa clarified.

Another marked difference on "PDA" is that there are contestants from other parts of the world, which may lead to cross-cultural conflicts between the locals and imports.

"It's heartening and interesting to note that even those who grew up abroad possess very Filipino qualities like being family-oriented," he said. "You can see that they were heavily influenced by their parents."

An example is Kristoff Abrenica, who's from Canada. "He holds two jobs and is very Western, but has remained close to his family. I believe this trait would help him succeed in life," volunteered Dellosa, who meets with the scholars at least once a week, to help them thresh out various issues.

Their being family-centered, however, could also be a liability. "When they don't see their relatives in the audience, they get demoralized in the middle of a performance."

At its most basic, Dellosa's job is to "guide" these scholars, as they navigate their way on the road to fame, which is often pockmarked with all sorts of pressures and perils.

"I am here to help them solve emotional problems, cope with performance blocks, deal with interpersonal relationships, and, in the process, assist them as they grow as individuals and hopefully prepare them for eventual success," he asserted.

But are these scholars equipped to handle celebrity?

"Some of them are; others are not," Dellosa said.

An example of the latter is Jun Hirano, the Fil-Japanese teener who has opted for voluntary eviction and a return ticket back to Tokyo.

"It seems he values fame in Japan more than stardom in the Philippines," he surmised.

Whenever they seek his counsel, he advises them: "You can shift back to your normal selves after every performance. You don't have to maintain the 'performer' personality 24-7. That can be very tiring. Learn to set boundaries. Away from the spotlight, it's okay to go back to 'being me.'"

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7:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10
PG-13

2 ZOOM
2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00
G

3 FLYBOYS
2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10
PG-13

4 FIRST DAY HIGH
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00
GP

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MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

3 FIRST DAY HIGH
MTRCB GP
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50

4 STEP-UP
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
ZOOM
MTRCB GP
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The work is here

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THESE PAST MONTHS, A LOT of smoke and heat has been generated by the continuing argument over some Filipino celebrities' decision to pull up their roots here, and work and live abroad.

Fact is, this stellar diaspora has quietly been taking place for years. But the controversy has intensified of late because some bigger names are now involved.

Another reason is the fact that local woes have increased, so any sign of name people leaving comes off like yet another nail on the coffin lid, and is thus loudly protested.

For our part, we're aware of the pressures that are driving the diaspora. We've had our share of offers to work abroad, but we've resisted the seductive importuning because, as we've always said (our mantra): The work is here.

Ever since we completed our graduate studies abroad, we've been invited to work in the West, but we've turned the offers down because there's so much that needs to be done here.

Especially in our fields of theater, show business and mass media, there are many opportunities to do well and to do good.

They may be fraught with problems of all sorts, but the work is significant, challenging and has a positive effect on many people, so it really needs to be done.

While we understand why others may get tired or frustrated about work and life here, we can't see ourselves starting a new life abroad because—what would we do there? Definitely, it wouldn't be as significant as our projects and involvement here.

Aside from hanging in there and continuing to do what we can here, we've also had a hand in keeping some celebrities from leaving, and enticing Filipino talents based abroad to return to our shores.

We remember one occasion when an acclaimed talent revealed that he had been invited to live and work in the States on a special preference basis. We joined the chorus of "friendly protest" that ensued, and we were gratified to learn later that our esteemed colleague had decided to pass up the attractive offer, and continue to perform his important and influential functions in this country.

Conversely, we had a friend who was already living comfortably in the States, but we believed in his potential contributions so much that we kept "nagging" him to make the Philippines his professional base once again.

We share these recollections not to pat ourselves on the back, but to stress the importance of rising beyond the negative aspects of working here, and focusing on what *we* can do to make living here better.

We urge celebrities to take this tack, because their decisions and actuations set examples for others to follow.

This goes beyond personal intentions, and moves up to the level of communal influence and effect. Thus, celebrities need to factor the public repercussions of their actions into their personal equations.

And so, to work—*here*, where it really counts, helps, and reaps rich rewards, not just for ourselves, but for the many people we can influence.

'Back to Basics'

PAYING tribute to the music that inspired her, pop icon **Christine Aguilera** has released her third studio album, "Back to Basics." A modern take on vintage jazz, soul and blues, the album reunites Christina with producer **Linda Perry**, as well as creating new collaborations with producers like DJ Premier. The two-CD album includes 22 new songs, and features the sexy single, "Ain't No Other Man."

'Poseidon' on DVD

NOW on DVD is **Wolfgang Petersen's** "Poseidon," starring **Josh Lucas, Emmy Rossum** and **Kurt Russell.** Experience passengers' desperate struggle for survival as a monstrous rogue wave capsizes a luxury cruise ship.

DVD elements include a docu on the complexities of making an adventure movie, a film school intern's "diary" about his experiences on the set, a production design feature, and a docu on rogue waves.

Feedback

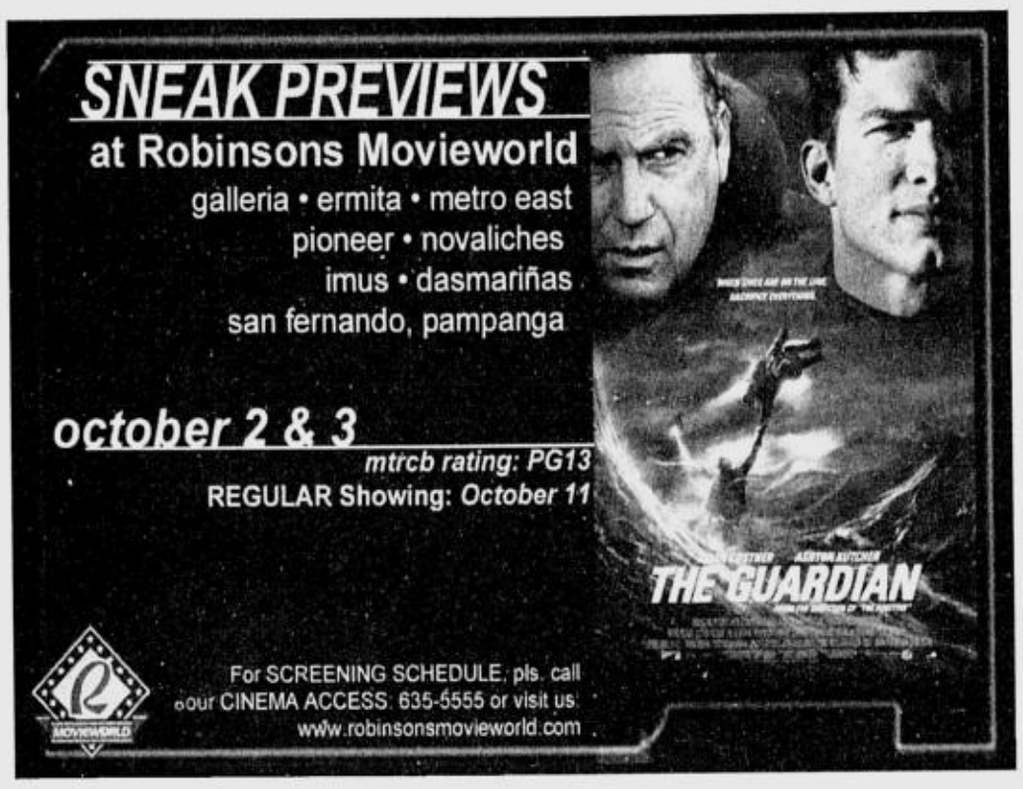
A **MERYL Streep** fan points out that, after "The Devil Wears Prada," the acclaimed actress is appearing in movies more than the production we mentioned, "Prarie Home Companion."

She's finished work on "Evening" with **Glenn Close, Vanessa Regrave** and **Natasha Richardson** (what a powerhouse cast!), and another Streep starrer, "Dark Matter," will be released next year.

Streep may already be in her 50s, but you simply can't keep a great talent down!

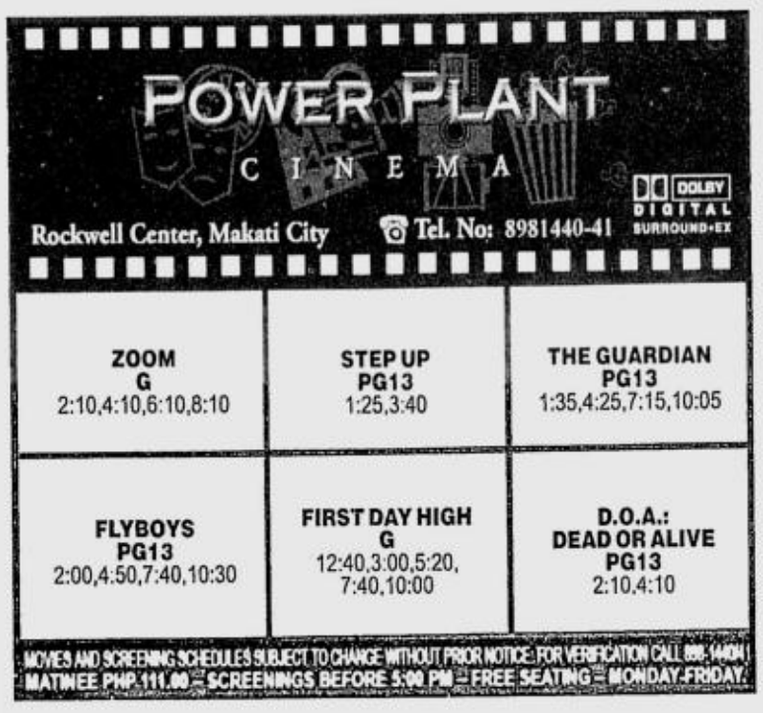
At Tavern on the Square

TODAY and on Oct. 9, 16 and 23, Orange and Lemons performs at Tavern on the Square (second level, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center). For more information on the band, email noseataffair@yahoo.com.



KEVIN Costner: Aging mentor

ASHTON Kutcher: Eager protegé



'The Guardian' drags on like a slow boat ride

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—FIRST RULE ABOUT COAST Guard rescue flicks set in Alaska: They should not last longer than the average time it takes to get to Alaska from, say, anywhere in the continental United States.

Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher's "The Guardian" drags on like a slow boat ride to Anchorage, its standard-issue heroics and flavorless dialogue gone stale long before the movie arrives at the big, valorous finish.

Like almost any well-intentioned tale of selfless rescuers, the movie has its potent moments, director Andrew Davis ("The Fugitive") crafting hearty action sequences of men hurling themselves into peril to save others.

The drama and emotion behind the action is so frosty, though, you could die of exposure by the time "The Guardian" lumbers to its climax.

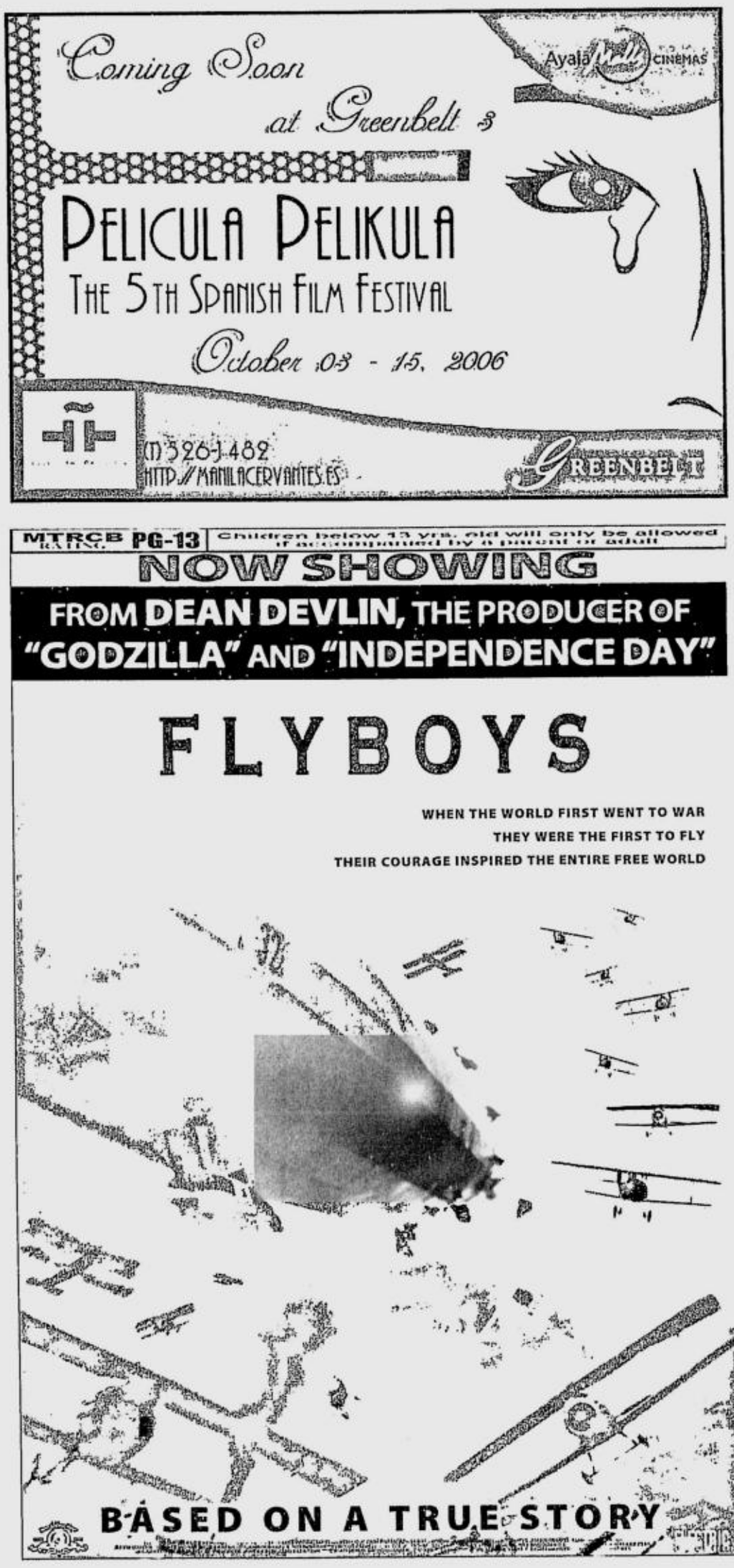
It's hard to stay connected to the characters as anything more than fleeting do-gooders. Their devotion to duty is so single-minded they come off as two-dimensional figures.

Familiar

Despite the movie's remote settings and potentially refreshing glimpse of a branch of the service not often depicted on screen, the story is a painfully familiar one about an aging mentor passing the baton to an eager protegé.

Costner's Ben Randall is a legendary Coast Guard swimmer based in Kodiak, Alaska, where he leaps from helicopters into frigid, churning waters to haul drowning fishermen, tourists and others to safety.

Tragedy strikes during a cargo-boat rescue, so trauma-



SPORTS / A21

RP's Dennis Orcollo rules World Pool League in Warsaw

BUSINESS / B1

SM group hikes stake in EPCIB to 59.7%

WORLD / A20

Brazil's Silva faces tough runoff after failing to win presidential vote outright

NEWS / A2

Storm 'Neneng' heading for Northern Luzon

Peso breaches 50 against US dollar

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY BROKE INTO THE 49-level against the US dollar for the first time in over four years on upbeat economic prospects and big inflows of remittances from overseas Filipino workers after Typhoon "Milenyo" disrupted trading for two days last week.

Bucking a regional downturn, the peso

PESO/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 3, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 297 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Cross-dressing cheats spoil Chinese games

BEIJING—TOUTED AS A celebration of sport, culture and national unity, the Ethnic Minority Games held in southwestern China descended into a farce of cross-dressing cheating and mob violence, state

CROSS-DRESSING/ A7

PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

THE University of Sto. Tomas Growling Tigers whoop it up after winning the UAAP men's basketball title against the Ateneo Eagles.

Comelec cleared in computer deal

Ombudsman panel makes turnaround

By Norman Bordadora

IN AN ABOUT-face, the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday absolved of any wrongdoing Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and other officials who were involved in the P1.3-billion poll automation deal that the Supreme Court voided in January 2004.

"While the Supreme Court is not wrong (when it declared the contract void), the evidence we received in this case showed no evidence of malice, bad faith and partiality to warrant an indictment," Marina Demeterio, a member of the Ombudsman panel that looked into the deal with the Mega Pacific consortium, said yesterday at a news conference.

The Ombudsman panel was chaired by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro.

Apart from Abalos, current Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. and retired Commissioner Mehol Sadain had approved the contract on April 15, 2003.

Demeterio described the Comelec decision to award the contract to Mega Pacific as "an error of judgment, a misinterpretation of the law."

The panel also said that the deal was not disadvantageous to the government and that the

COMELEC/ A4

EXHIBITION POOL EDWIN BACASMAS

President Arroyo takes the cue with world pool legends Francisco "Django" Bustamante (left), who received the Presidential Medal of Merit, and Efren "Bata" Reyes, the Order of Lakandula-Champion for Life.

UST Tigers grab 19th UAAP title in overtime

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT WAS A CHAMPIONSHIP THAT was as glorious as it was unbelievable.

Performing one more miracle in their dream season, the scrappy Santo Tomas Growling Tigers yesterday captured the UAAP men's basketball title following a classic 76-74 overtime triumph over the top-ranked Ateneo Blue Eagles at the packed Araneta Coliseum.

The third-seed Tigers delivered two free throws from an area where they struggled throughout the winner-take-all Game 3 match to finally decide

UST TIGERS/ A6

VICTORY ride for rookie coach Pido Jarencio.

Malacañang orders dismantling of 'hazardous' giant billboards

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AS TROPICAL STORM "NENENG" plodded toward the Philippines, Malacañang directed the Department of Public Works and Highways yesterday to dismantle billboards that posed a threat to life and property.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. admitted during a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) that government negligence allowed the proliferation of giant billboards.

"Sad to say, (the regulation of billboards) has been neglected. We are only doing the inspection now. But we have to do it now before the onset of the next incident," Ebdane said.

The move to tear down the giant outdoor ads regarded as hazardous came amid an intense debate on whether an outright ban should be imposed on outdoor advertising following Typhoon "Milenyo's" rampage last week that toppled billboards that in turn caused death and injuries *(See story on Page A4)*.

Asked why billboards were allowed to mushroom all over Edsa and other highways in the first place, Ebdane said local govern-

MALACAÑANG/ A4

'Milenyo' death toll hits 190

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE DEATH TOLL FROM TYphoon "Milenyo" neared the 200-mark yesterday as Malacañang moved to appease exasperated citizens by pressuring Meralco and other power distributors to speed up the restoration of electricity in stricken areas.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she expected power and water to be fully restored in the country's biggest industrial zone, Calabarzon, within the next two days or by Wednesday.

Residents of hard-hit General Trias town in Cavite personally drove home to Ms Arroyo the extent of their suffering, in messages written on pieces of plywood that they held up to her when she visited the area.

One message read: "Pangulong Arroyo, 5 days *na kaming walang kuryente at tubig* (We have been without electricity and water for five days). Please help us!"

Despite Meralco's promise to restore electricity by Sunday, several areas in Metro Manila were still without power five days after Milenyo ripped through Luzon.

In Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), 60-70 percent of the region's esti-

MILENYO/ A7

Gunfire, blasts, a dying breath

By DJ Yap

IF YOU THINK LOSING A LOVED one is heartbreaking, you should listen to Elsie Badbad's story. Then you would know what anguish really means.

Elsie was not there when her husband Rodrigo, a military sergeant, was killed in an ambush by communist guerillas in Cagayan de Oro City last month. But its horror would likely stay with her for a long, long time.

She heard everything on her mobile phone—the gunfire, the explosions, her husband's dying breath.

"I wish I had been there with him. I would probably have been able to help him. And even if I couldn't, at least I would have been able to hold him," said Elsie, a mother of two.

The 34-year-old was talking to Rodrigo on her cellular phone that morning when, all of a sudden, enemy forces began attacking her husband's company.

"One moment I was conversing with my husband, then suddenly I was hearing guns and loud blasts in the background," she said in Filipino.

"I started panicking and

GUNFIRE/ A6

DECORATIVE candles made by street children are sold at the Pangarap Shelter in Pasay City. RYAN LIM

Street kids find home in arts center

By Jocelyn R. Uy

INSIDE A NONDESCRIPT BUILDING along crowded Taft Avenue in Pasay City is a trove of decorative candles in all sorts of shapes and scents, of bracelets and rosaries made from crystal and pearls.

It is not a shopping center but a home to 101 street children and young adults who heal their wounds by creating pieces of art with hands calloused by the harsh realities on the streets.

At the Pangarap Shelter, established by the Sons of Mary, Ina-anak Inc. and the Ladies of Charity of Pasay in 1989 and run by the Pangarap Foundation Inc., these people are provided not only with their basic needs but also rehabilitation and life skills.

A portion of their rehabilitation has taken the form of candle-making and beading—part of an income-generating

STREET KIDS/ A6

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Second FRONTPAGE

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms, becoming widespread over Eastern Luzon and the western sections of Visayas and Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/02/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

RSBS to stop operations, says AFP

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY's GRAFT-RIDDEN pension fund scheme, the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS), will stop operations by the end of the year.

"The RSBS is a hopeless case. *Sobrang lugi na* (It has lost so much money)," Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said yesterday.

He said the fund will stop operations by Dec. 31.

A few years back, RSBS officials admitted before a Senate investigating committee that the fund was not only losing money but it would also be unable to pay the retirement and separation pensions of soldiers.

A previous Senate investigation had found that billions of pesos of RSBS funds went to behest loans and questionable real estate deals.

Former AFP chief Lisandro Abadia, former RSBS president and retired general Jose Ramiscal Jr. and 11 others were charged with graft before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly misappropriating hundreds of millions of pesos of RSBS funds in anomalous transactions.

Cruz said the remaining funds and assets of the RSBS would be turned over to state-run Landbank and the Development Bank of the Philippines for safekeeping and eventual disposal.

'Neneng' heads for N. Luzon

By Blanche S. Rivera

"NENENG" HAS INTENSIFIED INto a tropical storm and is moving toward northern Luzon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Packing maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometer per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 100 kph, Neneng is expected to bring strong winds in Bicol, and parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

Pagasa weather chief Nathaniel Cruz said the new storm continued to pick up strength as it moved over the Pacific Ocean. Its center was located 730 km east of Quezon based on satellite images.

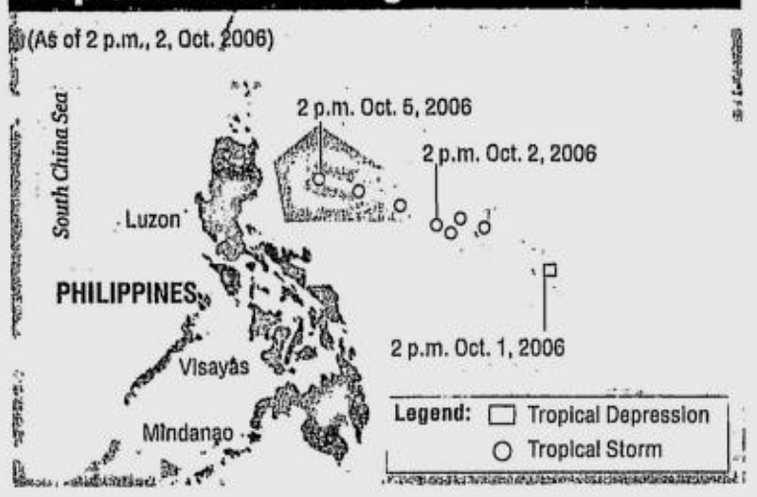
Traveling west northwest at 7 kph, Neneng is expected to be 530 km east of Central Luzon tomorrow morning. Pagasa has advised small seacrafts in the Visayas and Mindanao not to go out to sea due to strong winds.

Neneng, the 14th tropical cyclone to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility this year, comes in the wake of Typhoon "Milenyo," which killed 76 people, the latest death toll. Sixty-nine people remain missing.

The new storm is expected to intensify as it moves into northern Luzon, where electricity and drinking water supply have yet to be fully restored.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday visited the weather-beaten town of General Trias, Cavite and ordered round-the-clock relief efforts to make sure there would be no additional casualties as the new storm approached. *With AFP*

Tropical Storm 'Neneng'



Magdalo rebels, lawyer part ways

DETAINED REBEL LEADER NAVY Lt. s.g. Antonio Trillanes IV and 49 other soldiers linked to the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny have parted ways with their long-time defense lawyer Roel Pulido.

The reasons for this move are still unclear.

Pulido, who has been on the case from the start, confirmed he would no longer represent any of the so-called Magdalo rebels in any of their cases before a military court and civilian courts in Makati and Quezon City.

"It was a mutual decision," Pulido said yesterday.

He said he discussed the idea last week with Trillanes, Navy Lt. s.g. James Layug, Marine Captains Gary Alejano and Nicanor Faeldon when he visited them at the Marine detention center.

Pulido, who has been providing pro bono work to the rebel soldiers, has come under fire from the military. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Jeep falls into river; 16 dead, 30 missing

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE FUNERAL of a retired teacher turned tragic after strong currents swept an overloaded "jumbo" jeepney off a flooded bridge into a swollen river yesterday, killing at least 16 persons, including two children, in Igbaras town 39 kilometers south of here.

At least 30 others remained missing as of 4:30 p.m., according to Igbaras Mayor Jaime Esmeralda, as rescuers raced against time to look for survivors.

Rescue teams pulled 12 passengers out of the river. They were brought to hospitals in neighboring Guimbal town and Iloilo City, Esmeralda said.

"We fear the death toll would reach 30," the mayor told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said the jeepney may have been carrying more than 50 passengers, many of them on the roof of the vehicle.

Esmeralda said the jeepney was swept away at around 12:30 p.m. as it crossed a concrete bridge in Sitio Songsongon in Barangay Barasan, some 5 km from Igbaras.

The river was swollen because of continuous rains and water had covered the bridge.

The fatalities had attended the funeral of retired teacher Remo Eguico and were on their way to Igbaras when their jeepney got stranded while crossing the bridge.

The current dragged the vehicle some 100 meters from the bridge, Esmeralda said.

The fatalities, mostly from barangays Labon, Bagay and Purok I, all in Igbaras.

A report from Police Regional Office 6 placed the death toll at 11 with six survivors as of 4:20 p.m.

The remains were first taken to the rural health center beside the Igbaras municipal hall and later to funeral parlors.

Esmeralda said some of the passengers might have been trapped inside the jeepney. The vehicle's sides were covered with tarpaulin because of the rain.

Grieving relatives flocked to the health center to identify the fatalities.

The first of the remains began arriving at the health center at around 2 p.m. and were still coming in two hours later, said Jonathan Ecuado, a staffer at the mayor's office.

Rescue teams with rubber boats were sent to the area to look for more survivors, said Supt. Wesley Barayuga, chief of plans and operations of PRO6.

An Agence France Presse report quoting local police said the rains were brought on by the approach of a new tropical storm.

This after Typhoon "Milenyo" wrought havoc on the central and northern part of the country just days ago.

The new storm is expected to bring strong winds and dump heavy rains in most parts of the country within the next few days, weather forecasters said. *With an AFP report*

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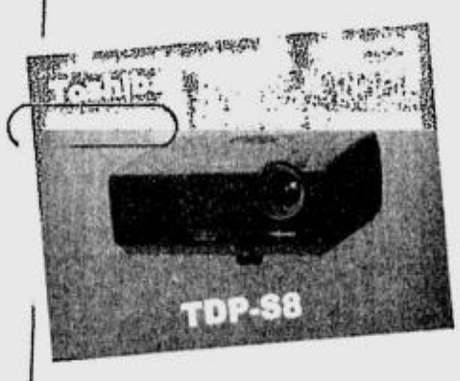

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3808 Series of 2006

Oil companies cut price of cooking gas by P2.24/kg

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION TO BLACKOUT-weary residents, sellers of liquefied petroleum gas cut the cooking gas price by P2.24 a kilogram or P22 per cylinder.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. simultaneously reduced prices at 12:01 a.m. today. LPG bulk distributor Liquigaz also slashed prices by P1.65 a kilogram.

The new price cut brings LPG prices to between P456.36 and P521.16 per 11-kg cylinder, inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax.

The LPG suppliers said a considerable drop in LPG international contract prices allowed the price reduction.

However, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that LPG prices should go down by P4 a kilogram in October.

Data from the Department of Energy showed the international contract prices of LPG plunged $77.40 per metric ton (MT) to $483.50 per MT in October, from $560.90 per MT last month.

This means that LPG suppliers could still make a windfall in many typhoon-damaged areas now going into their sixth day without electricity.

But the DOE offers hope of even more good news to come.

Consumers could still expect another P2-a-kilogram LPG price reduction in the coming weeks, Lotilla said.

At the same time, DOE oil industry management bureau director Zenaida Monsada said gasoline prices could go down by P2 a liter within the month, also due to softening international prices.

Diesel fuel, however, may not be in for a reduction because of higher tariffs on crude and finished products, which have been restored to the mandated three percent from the previously reduced level of two percent. Oil firms used these tariff savings from gasoline to partially subsidize the prices of socially sensitive diesel products.

Over the past six weeks, oil firms have already slashed prices of gasoline and diesel products by 50 centavos to P1 a liter. Last week, LPG cut prices by 56 centavos a kilogram. *Abigail L. Ho*

'Pan de sal' is losing weight

By Jerome Aning

SIGN OF THE TIMES: THE PINOY *PAN DE SAL* is losing weight.

The price is the same but the P1 "Pinoy Pan de Sal," a government-initiated low-cost version of the Filipino's signature breakfast bread, has lost 30 percent of its weight in three years, the country's largest worker's group said yesterday.

Ernesto Herrera, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, called it "stealth inflation" or indirect consumer price increases through subtle "content reduction." This type of inflation is not reflected in statistics; but clearly, consumers are no longer getting what they used to get for the same price.

"The *pan de sal*'s diminution is indicative of the extent consumers are losing value for their money in the face of surging inflation" said the TUCP chief, who is leading the worker's campaign for higher wages.

Herrera, a former senator, was reacting to an announcement by the bakers federation that it was officially reducing the weight of the P2-*pan de sal* by 12.5 percent, from 40 grams to just 35-g a piece. The bakers said the increasing cost of flour and liquefied petroleum or cooking gas made this imperative.

Herrera said this implied that the weight of the smaller P1 *pan de sal*, which Malacañang pegged at 25-g in April 2003, could now be down to as little as 17.5-g.

Three years ago, in response to the public outcry against "the incredibly shrinking *pan de sal*," Malacañang set the price of the 25-g *pan de sal* at P1 each, or P2 for the heavier 50-g version. Tagged "Pinoy Pan de Sal," a joint project of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Federation of Bakers Association Inc. (PFBAI), the project pledged to keep *pan de sal* prices down through the use of a cheaper flour mix known as "Harina de Pan de Sal," specially reformulated by San Miguel Corp.

The project also guaranteed that "Pinoy Pan de Sal" would be enriched with vitamin A and iodized salt, and kept bromate-free.

"Obviously, the DTI and the PFBAI were not able to keep the project up; there is no P1-*pan de sal* now that weighs 25-g," Herrera said.

The labor leader Herrera described as "ill-timed" the bakers' decision to further lessen the *pan de sal*'s weight.

"Cooking gas prices have already gone down considerably as a result of the global plunge in oil prices, and it is now much cheaper to buy dollars with pesos," he pointed out.

Philippine flour comes from spring wheat that is 100-percent imported from the United States, Australia, Canada and China, and thus paid for in dollars.

PNP fails to hit 'jueteng' target

By A. Papa and C. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE National Police admitted yesterday its self-imposed deadline to wipe out the illegal numbers game "jueteng" by the end of September was not met.

But in a press conference, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said he would still have something to report to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It (elimination of jueteng) is not 100 percent," Calderon said. "But we have considerable accomplishments. I would say the momentum or drive against jueteng is gaining ground. This is my continuing policy."

Calderon said he would present these "accomplishments" to the President next week.

He said the difficulty in fighting jueteng was com pounded by the lack of witnesses against individuals involved in the illegal game.

Calderon also said 10 police chiefs from Luzon who failed to stop jueteng in their areas would "automatically" face relief.

"They (10 police chiefs) can request for an extension but unless they can show there is a series of (anti-jueteng) operations in their areas, this cannot be granted," he said.

Calderon had ordered the eradication of jueteng by Sept. 30.

The clergy's most vocal critic of jueteng, however, claimed the crackdown on jueteng was not sincere.

"It's deceptive," Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan see and leader of Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Sugal told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Cruz said the latest police effort to get rid of jueteng was meant to allow the government's Small Town Lottery (STL), the legalized version of jueteng, to operate.

The catch, the prelate claimed, was that jueteng would operate surreptitiously alongside STL, and then eventually resurface.

He said STL was now being played with 38 numbers, instead of the original 40. Jueteng is played using 37 numbers.

Cruz said the decrease in the number of STL balls showed its proponents were bent on making it similar to jueteng.

"Yes, jueteng has almost been wiped out but only to prepare for STL," Cruz said.

F. Zepeda; 82

BUSINESSMAN FELIX Garcia Zepeda of Gagalangin, Tondo, died last Saturday after a lingering illness. He was 82.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia, children Vicky and Roger Flores, Ramon and Evelyn, Felix Jr. and Nemi, and Tessie and Arthur Martin and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

300 elite cops sent to battle Reds

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE yesterday deployed 300 elite commandos as part of stepped-up operations against communist guerrillas, officials said.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon—who led send-off ceremonies for the units that will lead operations against communist rebels in at least seven regions—vowed that the New People's Army will be "run to the ground."

"We will destroy the enemy forces that undermine the nation's stability with overwhelming combat power," he said.

The Special Action Force is a highly specialized unit for planning and conducting operations, especially for counterterrorism and hostage rescue. The officers will provide counterinsurgency support and training to provincial and regional police units, Calderon said.

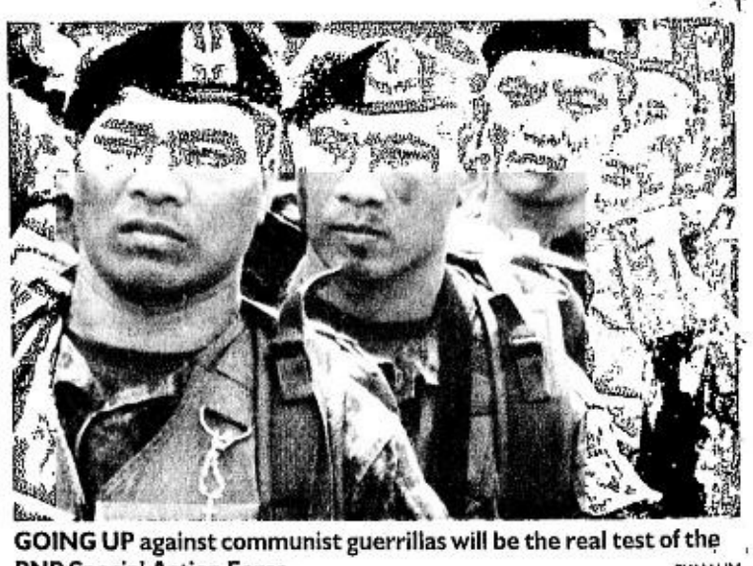
"This mission will be crucial in ensuring internal security as the full might of government prepares for its final push against the rebels," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the military to defeat rebel forces in key areas within two years.

Last month, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon described the underground Communist Party and its armed wing as the "most potent threat" to the government.

The rebels, who have about 7,200 fighters, operate in more than 2,100 villages, or 5 percent of all villages nationwide, Esperon said.

The rebels withdrew two years ago from peace talks on ending 37 years of insurgency, saying the government was not making efforts to remove them from US and European lists of terrorist organizations. *AP*



GOING UP against communist guerrillas will be the real test of the PNP Special Action Force. RYAN LIM

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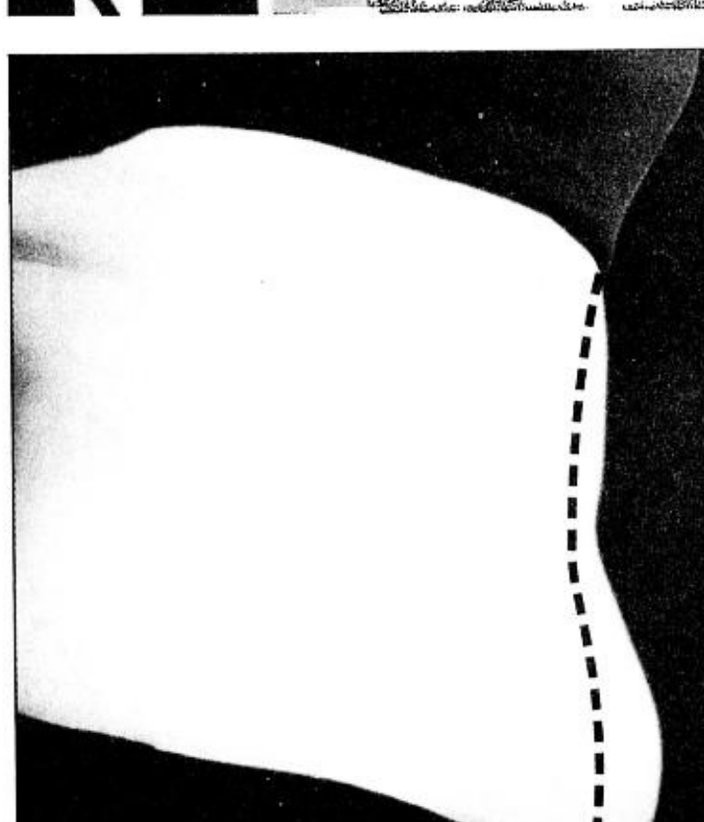

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Santiago delivers tirade against 'killer billboards'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SHE ROSE FROM HER SICKBED to deliver a tirade on the Senate floor against outdoor advertising and the death and injuries it caused in the wake of last week's devastating sweep of Typhoon "Milenyo."

"Innocent human beings were torn from their lives, and taken, never to return, from the bosom of their loving, bereaved families, simply because nobody dared to face the reality that we Filipinos are living in billboard hell," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said.

"Who will pay the amount of damages for death caused by criminal billboards that violated the requirements of the National Building Code? Who shall be liable for the loss of the earning capacity of the deceased? Who shall support their families? Who shall relieve their families of unspeakable and lifetime mental anguish? For you cannot resurrect the dead," she said.

Although downed by anorexia the past two weeks, Santiago went to the Senate to deliver a privilege speech urging the immediate approval of her long pending Anti-Billboard Blight Act.

Giant billboards toppled by Milenyo on Thursday killed at least one person, damaged property, caused mammoth traffic jams and triggered an intense debate on whether outdoor advertising should be banned altogether.

Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), called for a halt on the construction of advertising structures until their owners had been made to account for the injuries and damage they caused last week.

"I am appealing to local government officials concerned, particularly building officials, to declare a moratorium on the putting up of new billboards until we have brought back sanity to Metro Manila's skyline and victims of these fallen structures have been given justice," said Fernando.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said he would support any move on billboards taken by Fernando. Spokesperson Joey Salgado said the Makati City Engineer's Office had decided not to allow the rebuilding of collapsed billboards. The Mandaluyong City Council was working yesterday on a proposed ordinance to limit the sizes of billboards.

Permanent ban urged

House Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez filed a resolution calling for the removal and a permanent ban on giant billboards along major roads.

"Typhoon Milenyo had proved that the giant billboards along the South Superhighway, Edsa and other major thoroughfares are indeed killers and ultra hazardous to people and property," said Golez.

Frank Abueva, president of the Outdoor Advertisers Association of the Philippines (OAAP), said that instead of an outright ban, the government should review existing laws and regulate billboards and make them less hazardous.

In a privilege speech titled "We Are Living in Billboard Hell," Santiago countered the opinion of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that billboards were a form of free speech which cannot be banned.

Use police power

"Billboards are a form of commercial speech which can be prohibited under the police power of the state," said Santiago.

Even before Congress passes a law banning or imposing restrictions on billboards on major thoroughfares, mayors and local building officials can already remove illegal billboards and sue their owners under provisions of the Civil Code on public nuisances, she said.

"Therefore, Metro Manila mayors have the responsibility to file civil suits for damages, in the cases of homicide or destruction of property, caused by the falling billboards from hell," Santiago said.

Santiago's bill seeks an outright ban on billboards on highways that obstruct or obscure the view of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, residential areas, on any public property such as streets and highways, telephone or utility poles, and on the roofs of buildings.

Citing data from the OAAP, Santiago named Globe, Bench, Marlboro, Chowking, Penshoppe, Jollibee, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart, Greenwich and Tokyo-Tokyo as the top 10 billboard advertisers.

"With the proper exceptions, I charge these top 10 and all other billboard advertisers and their advertising agencies with corporate greed, the unthinking, unfeeling, unreasoning pursuit of corporate profits, without any sense of social responsibility, and without any sense of shared destiny," she said. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Armand N. Nocum, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Christine O. Avendaño, Philip C. Tubeza, DJ Yap and Tarra V. Quismundo*

Malacañang orders ...

From page A1

ment units should have had building inspectors check on the condition of the billboards.

"It's human factor. It's negligence," he said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., who is also NDCC chair, said he would propose an administrative order to be signed by Malacañang authorizing the DPWH, with the assistance of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, to dismantle billboards that pose grave risks.

Learn from experience

"Experience is the best teacher. We should learn from our experience with Milenyo," Cruz said.

He said billboards located within 10 meters from highways would be torn down.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said that if he had his way, there would be no billboards along Edsa, the South Luzon Expressway and the North Luzon Expressway based on the principle of "road right of way."

"There should be no billboards along Edsa. I just don't know if I can do that," he said.

Ebdane admitted there were no standards and regulations set for billboards in the National Building Code.

He said his department had no record of the billboards, or if these had permits in the first place.

Gross violations

"We've observed there were really some gross violations," he said, adding that he saw many billboards that were rusting.

"We really have a problem. We'll conduct a technical inspection on the ground to determine the actual situation and study the structures," he said.

Cruz said police powers would be invoked in tearing down billboards if the owners refused to do it themselves. "If we don't abate this, it will continue to cause damage," he said.

At the height of Milenyo's onslaught on Sept. 28, a motorist was killed when a billboard along Edsa near Estrella Street in Makati City fell on his vehicle.

Fallen billboards also destroyed adjacent buildings and offices and obstructed power lines and traffic.

Comelec cleared in computer deal

From page A1

counting machines had passed the requirements.

But the Supreme Court had said in its ruling that the awarding of the contract to Mega Pacific violated the law and the Comelec's own bidding rules.

"The illegal, imprudent and hasty actions of the commission have not only desecrated legal and jurisprudential norms, but have also cast serious doubts upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections," the high court said.

The Supreme Court also found Mega Pacific's counting machines to be vulnerable "to election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few key strokes." The high court ordered the Comelec to recover the amount paid to Mega Pacific. The poll body has yet to recover the money.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni said the Supreme Court decision required the Ombudsman to determine the criminal liability of the respondents among the election officials and members of the consortium, "if any."

"It did not say, 'Determine criminal liability, period,'" Jalandoni said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. last night expressed surprise over the Ombudsman's decision.

"It's more than an earthquake with an intensity 7 magnitude. And I can only hope that it does not deliver a death blow to the Ombudsman as an institution because it is obvious to me that there is more than meets the eye in this very surprising decision," he said.

The Comelec welcomed the panel's decision.

"We're very happy that the decision came out this way, but we're hoping that the people would take time to read the decision and find out why the charges were dropped," the Comelec education and information director, James Arthur Jimenez, told reporters.

The panel absolved all the respondents named by complainants Pimentel, the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines represented by IT expert Augusto Lagman and Kilosbayan Foundation represented by former Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Retired Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Ralph Lantion were among the respondents as Comelec technical experts.

The resolution of the Ombudsman panel abandoned the recommendation it announced on June 30, the deadline set by the Supreme Court for the Ombudsman to resolve its inquiry into the liability of poll officials.

The panel had said then that Borra was liable for allowing the bids and awards committee of the Comelec to declare Mega Pacific eligible to take part in the bidding for the automation project.

It said the House of Representatives could use its finding to open impeachment proceedings against Borra for his role in the anomalous poll automation contract. But the panel said Abalos and the other commissioners were subject to further investigation.

Casimiro said then that orders had been issued for the dismissal of the chair of the Comelec bids and awards committee (BAC), Eduardo Mejos, and members Jose Balbuena Jr., Lamberto Llamas, Bartolome Sinocruz Jr. and Gideon de Guzman. All five members of the BAC, except for Mejos and Sinocruz, have retired.

The Ombudsman also recommended the filing of charges for violation of Republic Act No. 3019 against Willie Yu, Bonnie Yu, Enrique Tansipek, Rosita Tansipek, Pedro Tan, Johnson Fong, Bernard Fong and Lauriano Barrios—all of Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc.

But the findings of graft against the BAC members and Mega Pacific executives were reversed yesterday.

Can't find evidence

In a resolution, the panel said it "cannot find an iota of evidence that the acts of BAC in allowing MPC [Mega Pacific Consortium] to bid and its subsequent recommendation to award the contract to MPC constitute manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence.

"Neither was it established that an unwarranted benefit, advantage or preference was extended to MPC or Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. by BAC in the exercise of its administrative function in the determination of MPC's eligibility and subsequent recommendation made to the Comelec," it said.

The election commissioners were the subject of a graft complaint after they issued Comelec Resolution No. 6074 awarding the automation contract to MPC. The commissioners were also alleged to have violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act when they, sitting en banc, approved the contract with MPC.

"According to the complainants, MPC did not have the legal personality to bid, as found by the Supreme Court, for it was not a joint venture required by law," the panel said.

Tinga's dissenting opinion

It, however, referred to the dissenting opinion of Associate Justice Dante Tinga, who had said that nowhere in the request for proposal to procure automated counting machines did the government require that "members of the joint venture execute a single written agreement to prove the existence of a joint venture."

"As was repeatedly pointed out, any misinterpretation of this provision (on joint ventures in the Comelec request for proposal for procurement of counting machines) does not immediately make the act criminal in the absence of bad faith or malice," the panel said.

"In the prosecution of criminal cases where the evidence is subject to two interpretations, one that will sustain a conviction and one that is consistent with exoneration, that latter shall prevail," it added.

The panel also said that the contract awarded to MPC was far from disadvantageous to the government.

It said that during the series of "clarificatory hearings" that began on July 13 and ended on Aug. 23, the MPC bid was the lowest and was the most responsive to the requirements of the Comelec.

No overpricing

It found that the counting machines passed the mandatory requirements when they were tested by the Department of Science and Technology "with a 100-percent accuracy rating."

"There was no overpricing. MPC's bid is less than the agency cost estimate," the panel said.

It conducted the series of hearings after it issued its June 28 resolution to comply with a Supreme Court deadline lest the Ombudsman be cited for contempt. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Jerome Aning*

Peso breaches 50 against US dollar

From page A1

breached the 50:$1 barrier, hitting 49.50 before closing at 50.01 against the US dollar yesterday.

The peso last traded at the 49 level against the greenback in May 2002. Its closing rate yesterday was also its strongest finish since hitting 49.915 on May 30, 2002.

"The peso continues to be supported by strong fundamentals, particularly the fiscal position and the positive outlook on inflation," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"Remittances and expected inflows are also providing a boost to the local currency," the BSP chief said.

Cash transfers by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), which were interrupted when the financial markets were suspended Thursday and Friday due to the typhoon, poured in when the markets reopened yesterday.

More inflows than outflows

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, said the market had to absorb effectively four days of remittances, including those which came over the weekend.

"Of course, in a situation when there are more inflows than outflows, the peso will appreciate," said Hilado, also the treasurer of BDO Private Bank.

He noted that before the long trading break last week, the peso, along with other emerging market currencies, was already recovering from a correction that pulled back the local unit to the 50.50 level.

"The positive trend has resumed for the peso," Hilado said, noting the market's next target would be 49.80 and then 49.25 to 49.30:$1.

The peso's strength was also fueled by expectations that the Philippines will merit a sovereign credit rating upgrade by early 2007.

"All key macroeconomic indicators point to a significant improvement in the fundamentals and the absence of macroeconomic risks in the near term. The outlook for economic growth continues to be positive and we expect the inflation outlook to remain benign," Merrill Lynch economist Benoit Anne said in a recent report.

"We think that a positive rating action is likely in early 2007, reflecting the strong fiscal adjustment and strengthening macrofundamentals," Anne said.

Merrill Lynch maintained its recommendation to accumulate Philippine assets in its model portfolio.

"We continue to like the fundamental story and the authorities' record in terms of fiscal adjustments this year. We also think that beyond the remarkable fiscal performance, a number of factors will be supportive of the credit, including the much reduced bond supply likely to be announced for next year and a possible positive rating action," Anne said.

Moody's Investor Service rates the Philippine sovereign's foreign currency debt at four notches below investment grade.

Standard & Poor's rates Philippine debt at three notches below investment grade, and Fitch Ratings' at two notches below investment grade.

Moody's rating has a "negative" outlook, which means there is a risk that the rating would be downgraded within a year or two. Fitch and S&P's ratings are "stable."

ING Bank said that expectations of a ratings upgrade, along with the absence of corporate demand for dollars over the weekend, boosted the peso despite the yen's downturn.

In the absence of emerging market weakness, favorable local fundamentals would remain "a magnet for net inflows," the Dutch bank said in a research note.

"Positive external balances, fiscal out-performance and stronger than expected government revenue growth support bullish sentiments ... Together with increasing OFW inflows, the Philippine peso should be well supported," ING Bank said.

Charter change unlikely

But Merrill Lynch said the May 2007 elections were likely to raise political risks in the Philippines, if the opposition got more congressional seats.

"We indeed anticipate another impeachment case in July 2007, but this time around, the process may be a little more destabilizing, depending on the results of the May 2007 vote," Merrill Lynch's Anne said.

The US investment bank believes Malacañang was still hoping to avoid next year's elections by pushing for constitutional change.

"But the adoption of Charter change is not the most likely scenario, in our view," Anne said.

"The odds are in favor of the Supreme Court rejecting the validity of the people's initiative, having already done so 10 years ago in similar context ... Plus it is likely that the Cha-cha supporters would run out of time before the elections," Anne said.

If Charter changes would not be adopted by January 2007, the focus would likely shift to preparations for the elections, she said.

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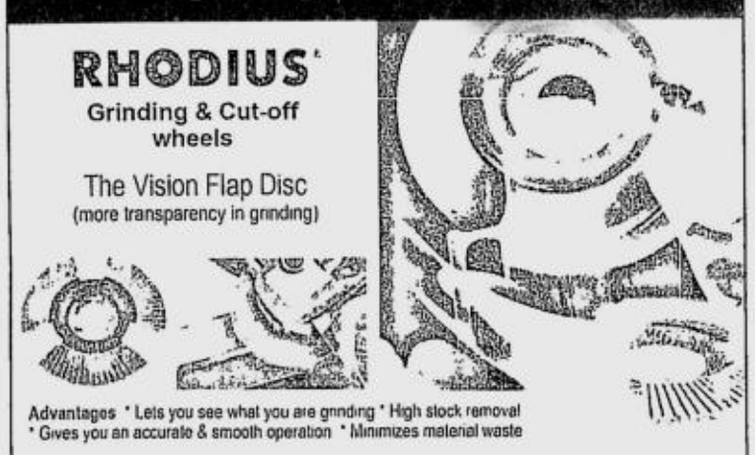

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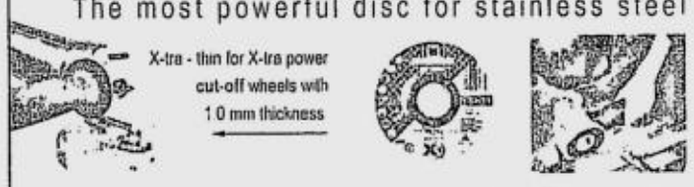

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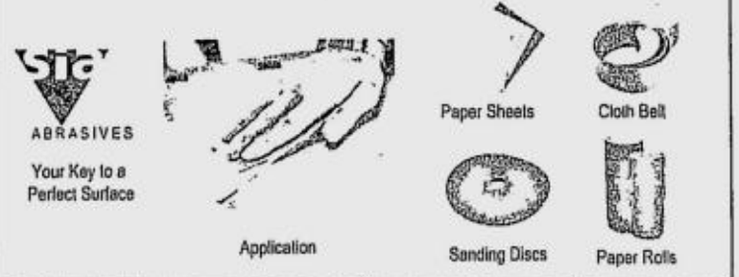

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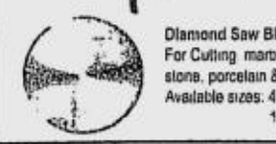

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SC OKs use of fictitious names to protect minors

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS STOPPED USING the names of minors and women who were victims of abuse and violence in its decisions to protect their privacy and dignity, and instead replaced the names with fictitious initials.

The high tribunal would also refrain from publishing the personal circumstances of the victim-survivors and any other information that would establish or compromise their identities and those of their immediate family or household members, the high court said in a statement.

In a 20-page decision penned by Justice Dante Tinga, the court upheld a two-count rape conviction against Melchor Cabalquinto for abusing the 8-year-old daughter of his common-law wife. The court resolved to identify the victim only as "AAA," and her mother as "ABC."

The court said the ruling on the non-use of names was pursuant to the provisions of the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 and the high tribunal's own rules on Violence Against Women and their Children.

It took into account the comments of the Office of the Solicitor General, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, National Press Club, Philippine Press Institute, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Earlier, the Supreme Court also resolved to refrain from posting in its website the full text of decisions in cases of child sexual abuse in order to protect the identities of the victims.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by AAA, who was assisted by her mother ABC, that she was raped by Cabalquinto on Nov. 8 and 13, 1998 inside their house.

The regional trial court and the Court of Appeals found Cabalquinto guilty and sentenced him to death. However, since the death penalty law has been repealed, the Supreme Court sentenced Cabalquinto to spend the rest of his life in jail without eligibility for parole. It also ordered him to pay AAA P75,000 in civil indemnity damages, P75,000 in moral damages and P25,000 in exemplary damages.

New Caledonia gov't backs RP workers

By Volt Contreras

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW CALEDONIA has rejected calls from local labor groups to expel Filipino mining workers from the tiny Pacific territory and has extended police protection to their work site, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

The DFA said the estimated 600 Filipinos, whose expulsion was sought in a strike led last week by the Federation of New Caledonian Workers Unions, remained safe in their remote mountainous camp 80 kilometers south of the capital Noumea.

"The official position of the New Caledonian government is that the Filipinos are needed there," DFA spokesperson Ed Malaya said in the interview, quoting a report from the Philippine Consul General in Sydney which has jurisdiction over the French territory.

"There's not enough heavy equipment operators among the local population," Malaya noted. "Eventually, these jobs will go to the locals—but in due time."

The spokesperson said New Caledonian President Marie Noelle Themerou and Speaker of Congress Harold Martin "have both called for sobriety and rejected calls for the removal of foreign workers."

Through the intercession of the consulate, he added, a police station was set up at the gate of the construction site for the safety of Filipinos, who were supplied by main contractors EEI, AG&P and Vinci Construction.

The Filipinos are building a $2-billion (P100 billion) nickel and cobalt processing plant managed by the Goro Nickel Co. and the Nickel Company of New Caledonia (INCO).

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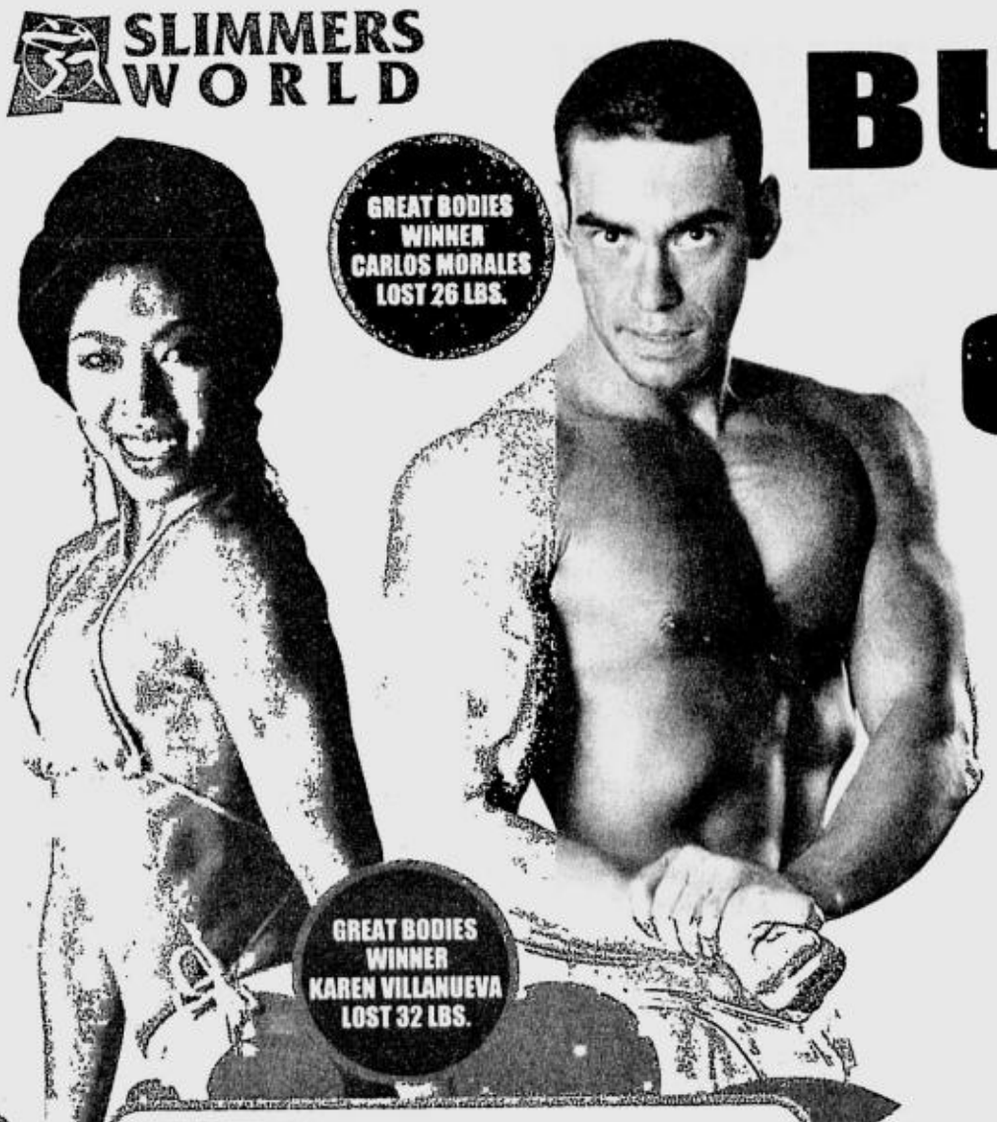

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UST Tigers grab ...

From page A1

the contest that was tied at 64 at the end of regulation play.

Finals Most Valuable Player Jojo Duncil kept the Tigers' unexpected title run possible by drilling in six straight points in the final two minutes of the extension.

But it was the tension-packed free throws of their second stringers—Dylan Ababou and Jun Cortez—that ended the Tigers' 10-year title drought.

"We were the underdogs in this championship but we were focused," said coach Pido Jarencio, who impressively steered the Tigers to the championship in his rookie year. "We had the heart and desire to win. We entered this championship ready."

Even more impressive, the Tigers secured the crown with their main men Jervy Cruz and Allan Evangelista watching helplessly from the sidelines in overtime.

Cruz, the sensational rookie center, fouled out with 1:16 left in regulation. Evangelista collected his fifth foul with three minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

"This team was really destined to win the championship," proclaimed Jarencio after the Tigers clinched their school's 19th crown, tying Far Eastern University's record for the most number of titles.

"From the start, I knew this was a strong team. Anyone can step up any time."

After Cortez missed a jumper, Ababou grabbed the rebound and drew a foul from Ateneo's Chris Tiu with 12.5 seconds left.

Clearly nervous, Ababou missed his first attempt, before nailing his second try to give the Tigers a precarious 75-74 advantage.

Possession arrow

When Ateneo main man JC Intal failed to convert at the other end, the fight for the rebound ended in a jumpball. But the Tigers gained the advantage with the possession arrow in their favor.

Forced to stop the clock, Eric Salamat fouled Cortez, who received the inbound with only 3.7 seconds remaining.

Back on the free throw line since the first quarter, Cortez buried his charity for the final tally before muffing his second attempt.

Ateneo grabbed the rebound but Jai Reyes' long desperation shot didn't even touch the basket.

Duncil topscored for the Tigers with 18 points, eight of them in the extra period.

The win came after the Tigers sent the best-of-three title series into a rubber match Saturday with an 87-71 rout. The Eagles took Game 1 with a 73-72 cliffhanger following a last-second basket by Doug Kramer.

Intal had two chances to secure the crown for the favored Eagles, who dominated the elimination round and won the first title slot easily over Adamson.

Before he missed a short jumper with 4.3 ticks left in overtime, Intal also failed to bury the potential game-winning basket at close range in the dying seconds of regulation.

Putback play

Struggling early at the charity line, the Tigers only connected on eight of their 16 free throw attempts. They slightly improved in the final quarter to finish with a 53.8 free-throw shooting percentage.

Intal and Macky Escalona had lifted the Eagles to a 64-59 advantage in the fourth period but Anthony Espiritu fired a three-pointer with 1:06 minutes left that moved the Tigers to within a basket.

Several seconds later, Mark Canlas scored on a putback with 37.3 ticks remaining to force the extra period, 64-64.

Indeed, the Tigers showed late in the season that they were good enough to be great. After securing only two wins in the first round, they rose from the cellar and jumped to third place.

The Tigers even survived a spate of injuries and illness of key players throughout the year, but still managed to overcome the twice-to-beat advantage of the second-ranked University of the East Warriors in the Final Four.

An estimated crowd of 20,000 watched the classic game, among them US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Sen. Richard Gordon.

The scores:

UST 76—Duncil 18, Ababou 13, Cuan 10, Cruz 9, Espiritu 8, Canlas 8, Evangelista 7, Cortez 2, Dizon 1, Taylor 0, Allera 0.

ATENEO 74—Escalona 28, Intal 16, Tiu 13, Kramer 9, Laterre 5, Barracoso 3, Escueta 0, Salamat 0, Reyes 0, Quimson 0, Arao 0, Al-Hussaini 0.

Quarters:15-17, 31-37, 51-50, 64-64, (regulation), 76-74

Gunfire, blasts, a dying breath

From page A1

screaming at the phone, asking my husband to tell me what was going on," Elsie said.

Longest day

Amid the loud noise, "I heard his voice on the line. He was moaning. After that, I heard more gunfire and explosions. It lasted 10 seconds."

Then the line went dead.

It was the longest day in Elsie's life.

"I kept calling him until it was already 3 p.m., but no one was answering anymore ... The worst thing was not knowing. Was he dead or alive?" she said.

"At 7 p.m., someone went to our house and said he would accompany me to the morgue. Our youngest and I couldn't stop crying ... I never realized that my world would stop so suddenly."

A widow in tears

Elsie was in tears when she told her story before a group of high school students during last week's Peace Tech 3, a dialogue among youths on the impact of war and conflict on women.

The forum linked up students and teachers at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, with their counterparts at the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City.

The third in a series of teleconferences on issues that concern the youth, the forum was organized by the Assisi Development Foundation, Center for Peace Education of Miriam College, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, United Nations Children's Fund, Australian Agency for International Development and the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. provided the cable technology.

Another widow

During the forum, women who were caught in armed conflicts talked about their experiences before an audience of some 750 students from UP and more than 1,100 from Notre Dame.

SERGEANT'S widow Elsie Badbad. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elsie said her husband's death put in doubt the future of her children, an 8-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl. Now she has to fend for them by herself.

"We'll get by. But it's going to be hard," she said.

Another widow who spoke at the forum was Teresa. As in Elsie's case, the story behind her husband's death was a sad one.

Except that Teresa's husband was fighting on the opposite side—he was a "commander" of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"I had just given birth to our first child when I heard that he might have been killed," Teresa said.

A love story

"It took a month before someone confirmed his death to me," she added. "By then, I was taking care of our child at my parents' house where he left me."

"I've since taken up a job as a helper in a store," Teresa said.

She described her husband as a "kind and thoughtful man."

Breaking the somber atmosphere in the hall, Teresa told the students a love story—how her husband courted her by writing her a love letter, which she answered favorably "after five days."

Teresa spoke at Notre Dame, and Elsie at UP Diliman.

Futile wish

Although their husbands died fighting each other, the two widows harbored no ill will toward each other.

"That's the way it is. You can't blame them because they were just following orders," Elsie said.

"When my husband was alive, I was always wishing that he would never meet any of the rebel groups. I wished they would just go their separate ways without knowing where the other was," she said.

But she knew it was a wish in vain.

"Every time there's an encounter, someone's bound to die. Somebody will lose a husband or a son," she said.

Street kids find home in arts center

From page A1

program launched last year.

Thirty-six of these residents—aged 10 to 23—are then sent to vocational schools so they could fend for themselves once they leave the program.

The shelter offers refuge to people referred by social welfare groups and walk-ins who had heard about the program. Many children are runaways fleeing dysfunctional or nonexistent families. Others had been brought to see the city lights, promised schooling and jobs, and later abandoned.

Here, they are taught skills and provided with the raw materials to make their own products which are sold by the foundation in bazaars and exhibits, Cecilia Escalona, IGP program officer, told the INQUIRER during the launch of the products last month.

Showcased were more than a hundred decorative candles in the form of fruits, Christmas wreaths, angels, flowers and a myriad of accessories—all looked like they had been crafted by seasoned hands.

Orders for giveaways

Sales are not significant so far, Escalona noted, but she hoped that it would pick up this coming holiday season. She also said some businessmen, who attended the launch, had placed orders for giveaways for the holidays.

For every candle, bracelet or rosary sold, 10 percent of the earnings is given to the child who made it.

However, from a social worker's perspective, the program is not only meant to generate income. It is also a form of therapy for the children at the shelter. Some of them have been physically and sexually abused.

"This is one way of healing and releasing their pent-up emotions and worries," said Melinda Aquino, a social worker.

Aside from enhancing their creativity, the program instills in these people values and traits that busy streets and dark alleys taken over by drunkards and older boys sniffing solvents could not teach them, she said.

Unstructured environment

The waifs are accustomed to an "unstructured environment" where no routine or rules need to be followed. But the skills offered under the program teach them patience, camaraderie and obedience, Aquino explained.

"With candle-making, they really have to learn to be patient or else they will always end up with low-quality products. To come up with exceptional ones, they must follow well the instructions provided by their trainers and abide by the procedure," she elaborated.

Angelo Garabiles, 19, said candle-making had helped him learn to make good use of his spare time. The foundation granted him a scholarship in Dual Tech, a vocational school in Binondo, Manila, early this year.

Better than 'bumming'

He recently completed a course on electromechanics and was waiting to start his on-the-job training. Instead of "bumming around," he said, he makes candles to make his time useful.

Garabiles has already finished 24 sets of Christmas candles in just a month. The money he will earn would be enough to buy his personal needs and a little for his parents, he said with a smile.

"Actually, it is not so much about how much they will earn anymore. What is important is that these children discover their self-worth, that though they come from the streets, they have talents and skills that would help them go far," said Escalona.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 3, 2006
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23
Gospel: Luke 9:51-56

As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem. He had sent ahead of him some messengers who entered a Samaritan village to prepare a lodging for him. But the people would not receive him because he was on his way to Jerusalem. Seeing this, James and John, his disciples said, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to reduce them to ashes?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village.

Commentary

Job suffers and curses the day he was born, wanting to die, grieving and bitter of heart. He cries out to God, who appears to have given light to him, yet he does not see his way and God seems to hem in on every side. Jesus too faced pain, suffering, hardship, grieved at others and the evil that was done to him, yet he does not pray bitterly like Job. In the face of rejection from the Samaritans he rebukes his disciples for calling down harm upon them, and simply goes off to others who will hopefully listen to him.

How do we deal with rejection or the prospect of death because of being truthful—like Job or like Jesus?

All receipts from Aug. 1 - Oct. 3, 2006 qualify for the Oct. 4 draw.

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Secretary of Finance Gary B. Teves recently announced that the October 1 Draw for Premyo Sa Resibo has been moved to October 4, 2006. This move will allow texters, who may have been inconvenienced by Typhoon *Milenyo*, three more days to text in their Official Receipts.

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Party-list solon warns against drop in palay prices

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORity has decided against increasing its palay purchases locally, compounding the misery of farmers whose ricelands had been destroyed by Typhoon "Milenyo," a peasant leader said yesterday.

In a privilege speech titled "Gintong Butil, Presyong Tanso" (Golden Grain, Cheap Price), Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said the NFA intended to "once again cease buying palay (unhusked/unmilled rice) from farmers in the face of the typhoon's devastation of agriculture."

He warned that the rice cartel, which purchases palay at "ridiculously" low prices, would again take advantage of the situation, employing the "stop-buying scheme" usually done in the aftermath of calamities.

"We have just experienced the onslaught of Typhoon Milenyo, expect the price of palay to go down drastically," said Mariano.

NFA officials have yet to make an announcement, but Mariano said he based his assessment on reports gathered during the National Palay Farmers Conference organized by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Amihan (National Federation of Peasant Women) held on Sunday.

Intervention urged

"They're trying to bring down as low as they can the prices of palay products of our brother farmers," he said in Filipino.

Mariano said the NFA "is only buying 20 cavans of palay in every barangay in Central Luzon."

Worse, he said, in Southern Tagalog, the NFA did not buy palay during the last harvest (April to May). The NFA cited lack of funds, he said.

Mariano said the agency should "actively intervene" in the market by procuring at least 25 percent of the country's total palay production in order to effectively influence "farmgate prices" of palay.

Unscrupulous traders

The NFA purchases palay at a higher price—from P9 per kilo to P10—compared to the buying rate of private rice traders, which ranges from P4 to P8.

Farmers have been demanding that the NFA and rice traders increase prices to P12, or even P15, per kilo.

The government's failure to purchase palay harvested before the typhoon would allow unscrupulous rice traders and landlords to manipulate farmgate prices, he said.

'Milenyo' death toll hits 190

From page A1

mated 10.6 million population was still in darkness, Office of Civil Defense director in the area Armando Duque told the INQUIRER.

Calabarzon is partly served by Meralco.

The death toll has reached 190, according to official figures obtained by INQUIRER reporters from the OCD and local governments.

Most of the deaths, totaling 141, occurred in Calabarzon, while 25 people were killed in the Bicol area.

The other deaths occurred in Metro Manila (8), Western Visayas (6), Eastern Visayas (5), Central Luzon (2) and in the Central Visayas, Mimaropa and the Cordillera (1 each).

Presidential pressure

In General Trias, Ms Arroyo ordered the OCD to coordinate with utility firms, local government units and residents to speed up the restoration of power and water service in Region IV (Southern Tagalog).

"We expect to fully restore power within two days. With the return of power, we expect water services to resume," Ms Arroyo said. "If we work round the clock, we should restore power soon."

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla reiterated Ms Arroyo's growing impatience over the slow pace of power restoration.

"The President is continuing to pressure Meralco, in behalf of our countrymen, to achieve the connections soonest even as she continually commits government resources to assist in the debris cleanup to facilitate the electric connections," said Lotilla.

Damage too great

The Lopez-managed utility insisted that it was doing its best to restore power without risking the safety of civilians.

"We also want to have it done at the earliest time. But it's difficult to meet her (the President's) expectations. The damage caused by the typhoon was too great, it's the worst damage inflicted in our franchise ever," said Dina Lomotan, senior public relations officer of Meralco.

Ms Arroyo, who was overwhelmed by the extent of the devastation in Sorsogon City during a visit to Bicol at the weekend, appeared surprised to learn that Laguna, among the provinces, had the most number of deaths at 56.

"So more people died in Laguna than in Cavite?" Ms Arroyo asked Duque.

"Yes, ma'am, and it's only a partial count," Duque replied.

Plea for help

Ms Arroyo, together with Cavite Gov. Erineo Maliksi, visited the Sunny Brooke Subdivision 1 in General Trias, where a collapsed dam swept away more than 30 people.

Residents and relatives of those who died sought the President's help.

An elderly woman approached Ms Arroyo and asked her to help her family with burial expenses.

"The government is doing everything to help you," Ms Arroyo said.

She noted that most of the people were complaining of the power outage.

She asked the local officials to help the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) and the Department of Energy to secure the right-of-way so that they could start building secondary power lines.

Meralco yesterday reported that it had fully restored power in its circuits and substations in the north area (Bulacan to Balintawak), 97 percent in the central area (Balintawak to Alabang); and 79 percent in the south area (Alabang to Batangas and Quezon).

Lomotan clarified these figures were based on the circuits and substations that had been powered up and did not reflect the percentage of customers that had their lights back on.

"We might have power in the circuits but we can't power up the lines until all the poles have been safely put back. We can't risk electrocution," Lomotan said.

'No one helps'

As of 1 p.m. yesterday, Meralco still had 604 poles down, 127 poles leaning, and 84 broken or cracked. Meralco has 665,749 poles in its entire franchise area.

In Metro Manila, 413, or 97 percent, of Meralco's 424 distribution circuits had been restored, the firm said.

Lomotan said that while the President had ordered authorities to support Meralco, this had been insignificant.

"No one is really helping us," he said, adding that the clearing of debris could be hastened with more hands helping.

"We are trying to fit everything in considering the magnitude of the damage. We are just asking for understanding," he said.

Water situation

The water situation remained frustrating for some Metro Manila residents as Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. failed to fully restore service by Monday. Some 13,000 households in the west and east zones of Metro Manila still had little or no water due to low pressure from pumping stations.

As of 6 p.m. yesterday, some 10,000 households out of the 700,000 serviced by Maynilad in the west zone still had little or no water, said Maynilad corporate affairs chief Jesus Matubis.

These were in Cavite City and in the municipalities of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite. Matubis said the wells providing water to these areas could not be pumped due to the prolonged power outage.

He said tankers were providing water temporarily to residents. Maynilad employees were on standby and ready to turn on the water supply as soon as commercial power was restored, he added.

"We can provide water to the rest of the areas by Tuesday provided that commercial power is restored," Matubis said. "It is just a matter of turning on the pumps."

East zone

In the east zone, 3,000 households still had little or no water among the 803,000 served by Manila Water.

Even some of those that had water experienced low pressure because the pumping station at the Fort Bonifacio area in Taguig City was running on generators, said the company's media affairs manager, Ranulfo Habaluyas.

The remaining waterless households are located on Central, Sumakwel and Lapulapu Streets, all in Upper Bicutan.

Manila Water said its employees were on site to monitor pressure and water distribution from a static tank put up to temporarily provide water to residents.

"Water pressure is expected to reach normal levels by midnight," Habaluyas said.

Ms Arroyo told reporters before she left for Cavite that she had ordered the police and the military to work with the barangays to secure electric cables and wires from looters.

"In other cities all over the world, that's one of the dangers, the danger of looting. But so far, we don't have major reports about that and I have instructed the AFP and PNP to work with the *tanod*," she said.

With a new storm expected in two days, Ms Arroyo said she told Cruz to make sure the government was extra prepared to meet any contingencies.

Concerned agencies had also been instructed to use their own funds in the cleanup and repair of damage, Ms Arroyo said.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. directed department officials and engineers to assess how the government's flood control projects coped with the effects of Milenyo.

"Take note of the observations made by the communities on why floodings occurred at the height of typhoon Milenyo in areas...not subjected to floodings before," Ebdane said in a statement.

Ebdane also ordered the clearing of roads littered with debris.

"Go out in the field. Do not submit table reports with bloated cost estimates," Ebdane said. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Riza T. Olchondra, Christine O. Avendaño, Leila B. Salaverria and Abigail L. Ho in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Joanna Los Baños, Fernan Gianan, Marlon Ramos, Niña Catherine Calleja, and Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cross-dressing cheats spoil Chinese games

From page A1

media reported.

Athletes representing China's 55 ethnic minorities assembled in southwestern Yunnan province last week to compete in blow-pipe darts, horse-riding events and other traditional sports.

But blind pursuit of victory lead to some unorthodox tactics, Xinhua news agency reported.

Results of the women's dragon-boat racing event were reviewed after athletes complained of "big women with Adam's apples," Xinhua said.

Referees subsequently found that several of the competitors were actually men wearing wigs.

A dispute between a team from the games' host city, Zhaotong, and another from Wenshan city in Yunnan province over the result of a wrestling final turned into a brawl, Xinhua said.

The Wenshan team was eventually chased away by a local gang with blades and sticks called in by the Zhaotong team, Xinhua said.

"I've never seen violence and ugliness like that," a reporter at the games told Xinhua.

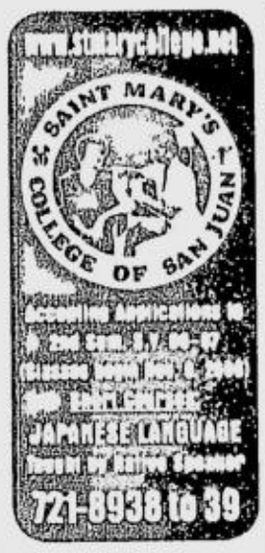
The nationality games have been held eight times in Yunnan province, where 25 of the country's 56 ethnic minorities live.

"The tenet of the games is to develop the minorities' characteristic sports, build up their health and increase national unity," Ren Muzhen, the chief organizer, told Xinhua.

Coaches blamed the unruly scenes on the pressures of having career advancement linked to results.

"Coaches and local officials still concentrate on medals and results in this games," a coach told Xinhua.

"They have to think about every means to get better results." *Reuters*



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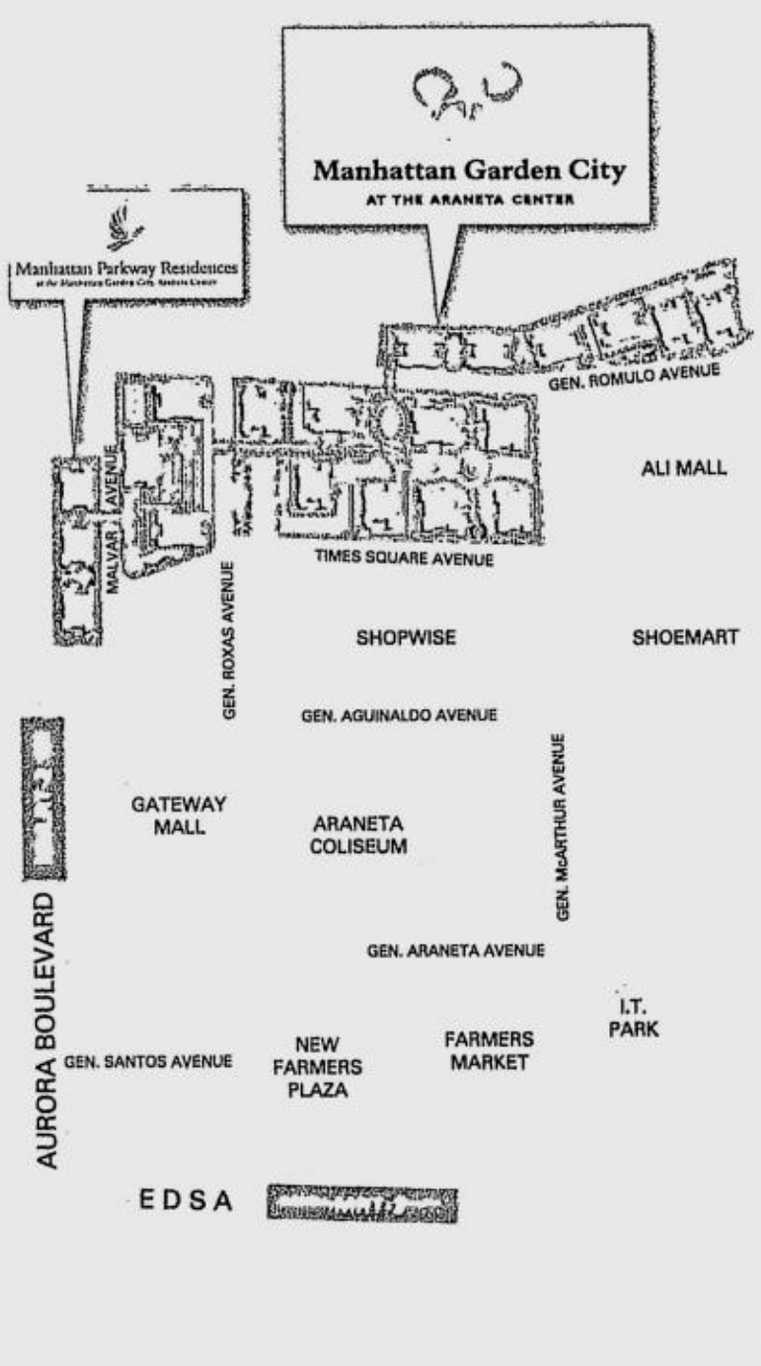

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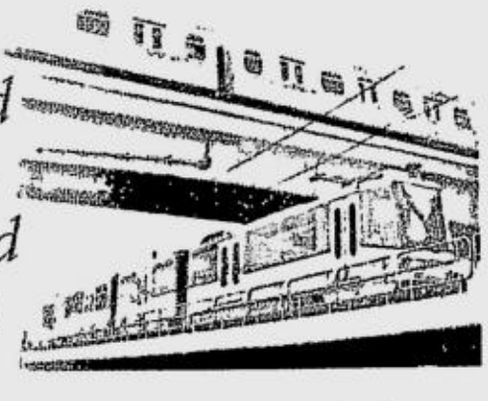

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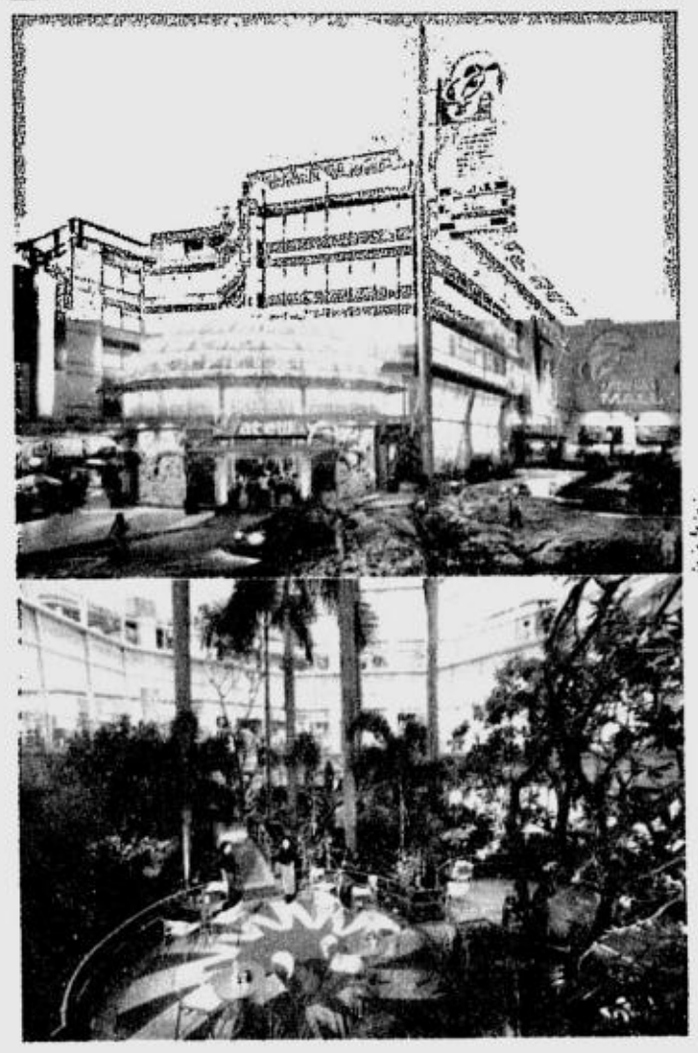

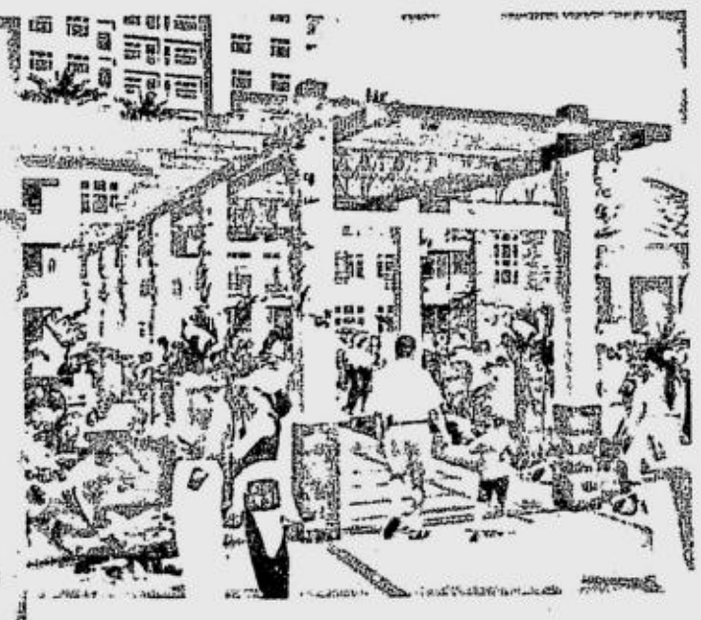

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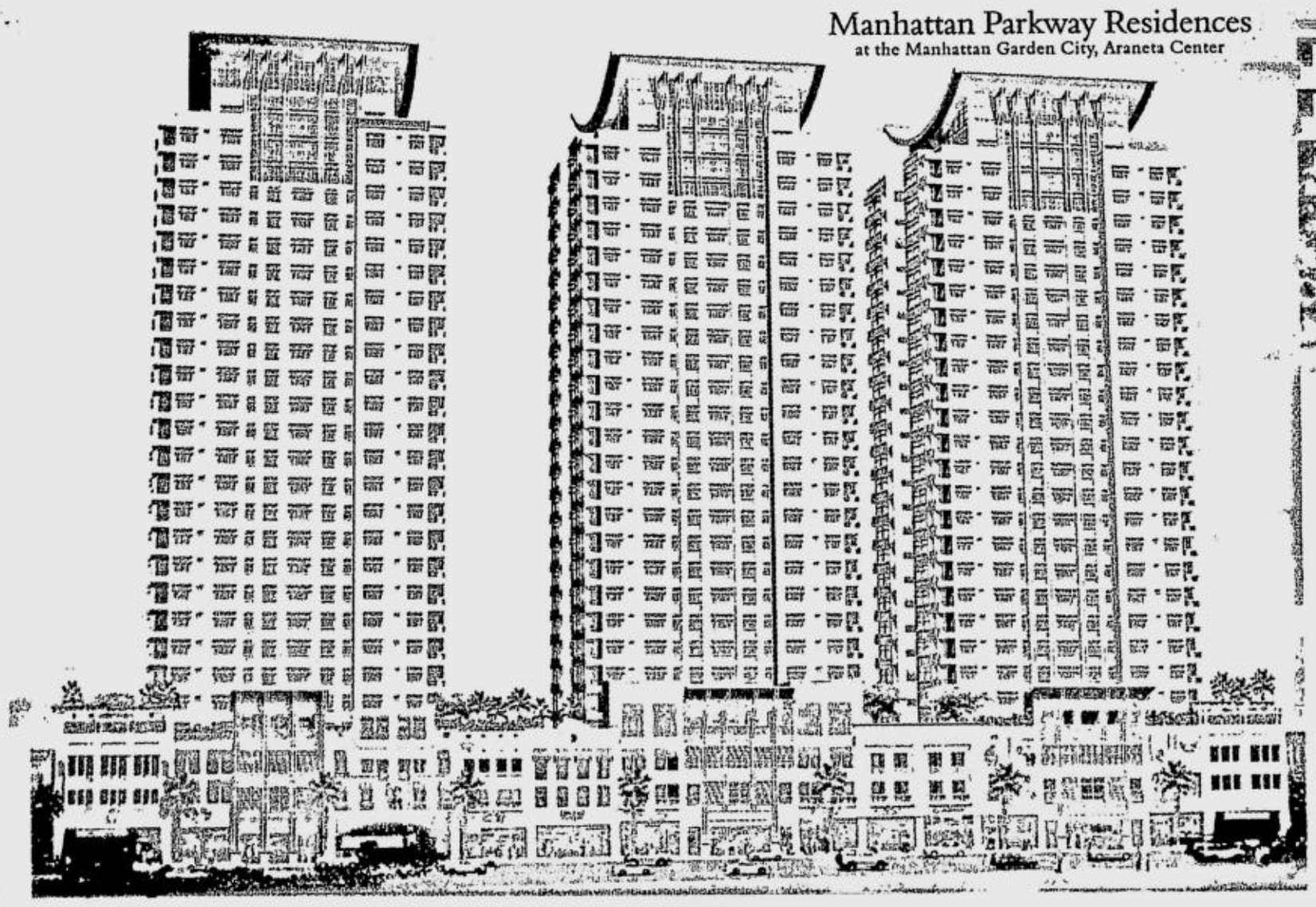

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The real scandal

IN ORDERING A RETAKE OF THE TAINTED NURSING licensure examination last July, President Macapagal-Arroyo belatedly admits that government responses to the crisis, especially those of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), have merely worsened the credibility problem facing Philippine nursing education as a whole. The problem owes to the nagging suspicion that our education system is merely cashing in on the nursing manpower demand in the West so as to jettison all considerations for quality health care, the Philippine reputation for which gave rise to the prestige of and demand for Filipino nurses abroad in the first place.

EDITORIAL

This cash-register mentality is reflected in the leakage scandal and the terribly inadequate responses of the PRC and the rest of the government. The leak confirmed the suspicion that some nursing schools and review centers would do anything—beg, steal, borrow, or all three—so that their graduates could get an advance peek at the licensure questions to ensure they pass the exam and get work abroad.

The PRC did worse in virtually substantiating the suspicion by doing away with the two subjects where the leak purportedly occurred in the computation of the final grade. The solution might be mathematical, but it showed the twisted mental operations that go by the name of "professional regulation." The PRC seemed to be impervious to the gravity of the problem. If nurses had been licensed after passing a supposedly comprehensive board exam in which two of seven major subjects had been done away with, then the license would hardly demonstrate the comprehensiveness of their skills, wouldn't it? So would their patients be better off knowing they were under the care of less-than-comprehensively-licensed nurses?

Oh, but the PRC could exhibit a comprehensive appreciation of the need to cover its tracks! When the College of Nursing of the University of Santo Tomas petitioned the Court of Appeals to stop the oath-taking of the "passers," the PRC advanced the swearing-in so that half of the passers were able to take their oath as new nurses a day before the court could issue the injunction. That only served to confirm the suspicion that our education system would stop at nothing to make a fast buck out of nursing manpower trends abroad.

But the oath-taking was a Phyrric victory for the new nurses as no hospital here or abroad would take them. It is this apparent lockout that seems to have compelled Dante Ang, chair of the Overseas Filipinos Commission, who was assigned by the President to look into the scandal, to convince her to backtrack from her earlier decision not to order a retake.

Now that the President has changed her mind, it is only proper for the PRC chair, Leonor Tripon Rosero, to resign for mishandling the crisis. The gesture would also clear the way for a fairer inquiry into the leak. For it is not only on the Board of Nursing where the onus of the blame should be laid. The PRC itself is a suspect since it had access to the test questions. Its silly attempts to remedy the scandal with stopgap measures seem to suggest some culpability.

Moreover, since the old nursing board members have resigned and the President has ordered a retake, there's a need to reconstitute the board which will administer the new exam. The PRC's attempts to fill up the vacancies in the board has been met by raised eyebrows by the nominees. Many leading nursing educators have declined the nomination for lack of confidence in Rosero's PRC.

Eventually, the spotlight will have to be trained at the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), which seems to have largely evaded blame for the controversy. The CHEd has not closed a single nursing school despite the alarming increase in number of poor-performing schools as shown by the declining national average in the licensure exams. In fact, the CHEd Technical Committee on Nursing Education has resigned over the inability of its leadership to implement its recommendation to close down substandard schools.

It seems a matter of government policy to coddle these schools, judging from the egregious statement by CHEd Chair Carlito Puno that the 30-percent minimum passing rate for nursing schools is too high! He said the minimum should be 15 or even 10 percent.

An official who believes it is all right for 85 percent of board takers to fail after they spent tens of thousands of pesos to get a health-care education is a testament to the banalization of greed in our nursing education system. The leak last July was only the tip of the iceberg. The real scandal lies elsewhere. And it seems to be at the corridors of the CHEd.

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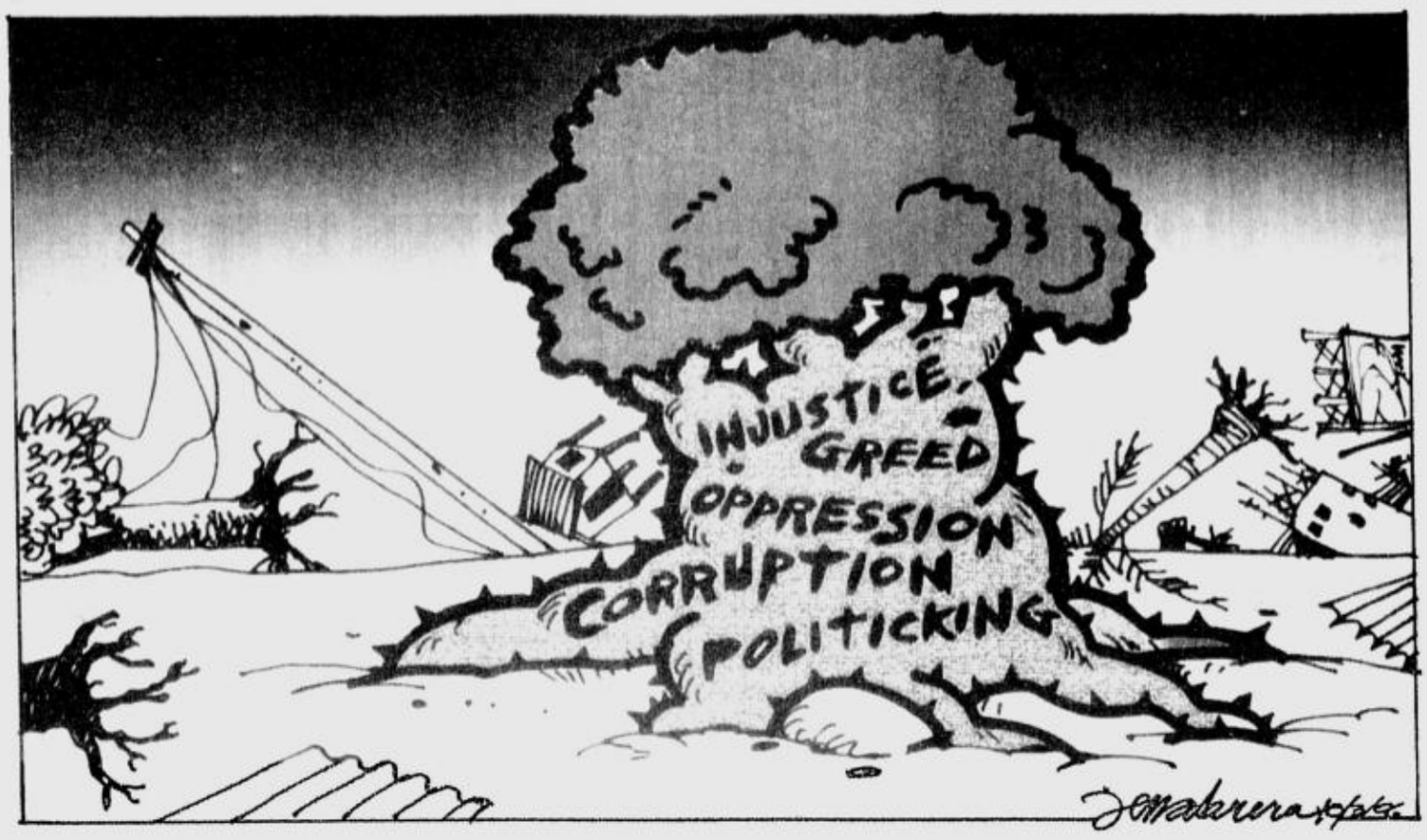

Journeys yet to come

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WHEN ONE ADVANCES IN YEARS, GOD compensates by giving grandchildren," the wife murmured as we gazed at the 7-month-old infant's photo on our computer screen. This is our sixth compensatory bonus. But this time, she comes from South-Central China.

"We'll pick up your sixth granddaughter in Chongquing probably late November," our lawyer-daughter in California phoned. Malu and her physician-husband, Jan, originally hoped to adopt a kid from the Philippines. Then, our third grandchild—their Swedish-Filipino daughter, Alexia, now 4—would have a sister in their Palo Alto home.

However, "corruption distorts the baby trade," the quarterly Foreign Affairs points out. "Unscrupulous go-betweens buy, even abduct, infants from impoverished parents ... From Albania to India, families and orphanages have swapped children for money, TV sets, cameras or watches."

Well-intentioned Philippine adoption rules seek to bar such abuse. But the regulations here somehow became a bureaucratic thicket. Exasperated, Jan and Malu turned to China.

In 1991, Beijing liberalized its old restrictive adoption laws. China's "one-child policy" drove a growing number of couples to abandon infants after the first child. And two thirds of Chinese waifs, put up for adoption, are girls.

American families adopted 61 children from China in 1991. That rose to 209 a year later, when the law took full effect. And China became, last year, the main country from which Americans adopted 7,906 children.

Russia was dislodged into second place, with 4,639 kids. Guatemala is in the third slot, with 3,783. Other major source countries are: Ukraine, Kazakhstan, India and Ethiopia.

Majority of adoptions, within the Philippines, are informal *intra-familia* arrangements. They outnumber lawful foster-parenting, walled in by a thicket of restrictive legal safeguards. Thus, they are under-reported.

In international adoptions, the Philippines never emerged as a major player. Over the last five years, it muddled between numbers 13 and 10.

The number of Filipino foundlings adopted by American couples crested at 421 in 1990. That slumped to 200 in 1998, then inched up to 221 in 2002. Last year, 219 found US homes. (About 8 percent of international adoptions in the US were trans-racial.)

"The international market for children has boomed," says the French think tank, Institut Francais des Relations Internationales. "For better or for worse, it now behaves much like a commodities market."

"In the past decade, 34,086 children, mainly from Asia as well as Eastern and Central Europe, found new homes in Canada, Spain or Italy," Institut notes. Americans account for over half the world's total of documented inter-country adoptions.

"Babies are not commodities," Ethan Kapstein's points out in his analysis of "The Baby Trade." "For thousands of children and parents, [their] only desire is to build a family."

For Jan and Malu, the green light from Beijing for a larger family came last week. So, they're now updating approved US papers and visa, prior to take off. When this adoption is completed, they will join other families who've adopted more than 55,000 Chinese children in US homes since 1991.

In the process, they will gift us with a Chinese granddaughter.

"Grandchildren are the dots that connect the lines from generation to generation," the old saying goes. In our twilight years, the wife and I find our "dots" swinging from Cebu to Stockholm, Palo Alto—and now Chongquing.

The wife and I watch the first few steps in what could be a journey of a thousand miles for Xiu Fu Wei. That's the name the Xishuan Orphanage staff gave to the little girl. After medical examinations, the doctors say she may have been born last Feb. 21, the orphanage report says. Wrapped in a warm back pack, she was abandoned in front of a county office some time in mid-April.

Was it still cold? we idly wonder. In China's early April, traces of snow remain.

What did the mother look like? Was she, as the documents hint, probably a member of China's 8-million ethnic minority, the Miaos, a hardy, healthy people in mountainous areas plagued by poverty?

In their last e-mail, Jan and Malu say they've settled on Xiu's new name: "Tai Noelle Rydfors." Malu and Alexia will drop by Cebu November, then fly to Beijing to pick up Tai for the flight to California.

Tai, a.k.a. Xiu, then begins what the first wave of Chinese adoptees experienced in the early 1990s. Now in pre-college years, they're starting to explore their identities, writes the New York Times' Lynette Clemeston. "Their experiences offer hints at journeys yet to come for thousands of Chinese children now becoming part of American families each year."

"College was when I really began trying to understand what other people saw in my face," one Chinese-American said. "Before then I didn't really understand what it meant to be Asian."

Tai will have her parents and half-Swedish sister by her side to tackle whatever issues arise. The actuarial tables say the wife and I won't be around then.

Only this morning, Ecclesiastes gave the unyielding reminder: "One generation passes and another comes ... And man goes back to the dust from whence he came and the spirit returns to the God who made it."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Stop the killings!

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(This is an abbreviated version of the remarks I made at the 4th Global Filipino Networking Convention 7th NaFFAA Empowerment Conference. My topic was what the Filipino journalists abroad might do to stop the killings in the Philippines.)

I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT: HOW bad are the killings?

There are two groups of victims—the journalists and the activists.

The killings of journalists began not long after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took office in 2001 and have reached alarming levels today. By May last year, two important international media organizations were already railing at the mounting body count of Filipino journalists. The US Committee to Protect Journalists ranked the Philippines the second most dangerous country for journalists, next only to Iraq. Reporters Sans Frontiers for its part noted that: "A culture of impunity reigns, for which the highest government authorities are responsible, that has allowed killers and those who send them to murder so many journalists in every corner of the country."

Conditions did not improve after May 2005—they deteriorated, frighteningly rapidly. These are the figures today, according to the National Union of Students of the Philippines, which has been monitoring this: Some 86 journalists have been killed from 1986 to the present. From 2001 to the present alone, which is GMA's term, 46 were killed. That is more than half the number of journalists killed since the country toppled down a dictatorship and restored democracy.

The killings of activists are far more alarming. Indeed, the numbers are mind-boggling. According to Karapatan, the political killings from January 2001 to Sept. 16, 2006 number 755. That is a veritable bloodbath. The sheer number alone must suggest method in the madness. This is no sporadic killing, this is systematic mayhem.

The "war against the NPA," which GMA unleashed some months ago, has added still new dimensions to it. Last month, the newspapers were reporting one murder per day, for the most part of suspected NPA and sympathizers, both concepts—NPA and sympathizer—expanding in meaning by the day as fast as the number of dead. Alongside this, government and military officials have been far more open and combative in their advocacy of murder as a method in winning, if not hearts and minds since the dead are left with neither, at least at all costs.

Is government indictable for the killings of the journalists? Yes. Indirectly so, but yes.

At the very least a slaughter of this scale of one of the most precious assets of a democratic community constitutes criminal negligence. I don't know that any American official, not to speak of American president, can continue to hold office with this monkey on his back.

At the very most, there is nothing in government's attitude toward journalists to encourage warlords, drug and gambling lords, and overbearing lords in government to respect journalists, or even just fear not being able to get away with murder. Indeed, there is everything in government's attitude toward journalists to encourage warlords to think they will meet only with indifference or even silent applause for ridding the world of infuriating pests. The killings send a dark message to journalists in general, which government itself, whether it is directly involved in them or not, is not loath to spread. That message is: You're critical of government, you may not expect government to lift a hand to prevent your disappearance from earth, or heaven forbid lament it.

Is government indictable for the killings of the activists? Yes. Directly, immediately, and implacably so.

This isn't just a case of omission, this is a case of commission. This isn't just police negligence, this is a policy environment.

At the very least, there is the principle of command responsibility. That was the principle Judge Manuel Real of Honolulu invoked in finding Ferdinand Marcos guilty of the torture and killing of several thousands of Filipinos in the class suit brought against him by 3,000 of those victims or their kin. His judgment was affirmed by the Pasadena Court of Appeals. It cited the case of General Yamashita who was found guilty of the atrocities wreaked by his troops for his failure to "take such measures as were within his power and appropriate in the circumstances to protect prisoners of war and the civilian population."

And those were conditions of war, when atrocity was rife. Marcos'—and GMA's—conditions were and are conditions of peace, when respect for life should be rife.

At the very most, there is GMA's repeated promotion and commendation of the minor-league Yamashita, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the last publicly and loudly during her State of the Nation Address. She singled out Palparan for a job well done, proposing his fellows find inspiration in his example. She did not tell Palparan that in a democracy people are presumed innocent until proven guilty; she told Palparan to keep up the good work. She did not tell Palparan that in a democracy there is a distinction between combatant and non-combatant, between soldier and civilian, between people who believe in Marx and people who take up arms; she told Palparan he had exceeded expectations. She did not tell Palparan that in a democracy it is wrong to murder first and say "I...am...sorry" later; she told him to stand up and bask in the applause.

That isn't just elevating mayhem into policy, that is elevating mayhem into virtue. *(To be concluded)*

* * *

Tonight is "Stop the Killings" Night at Conspiracy Café and Garden, Visayas Avenue in front of Sanville (landmark, Shell Station). Gary Granada, Bayang Barrios and Cynthia Alexander play. Who knows who else might decide to jam—those things have a way of attracting jamming. Be there. Stop the killings and your Tuesday night blues: Listen to some great music.

Let's not over-react about huge billboards

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BEFORE WE GO OVERBOARD AGAIN AND swing to the other extreme over the issue of the over-sized billboards that killed two people and injured dozens in the metropolis during the recent typhoon, it's good to note that outdoor advertising, like other forms of advertising, serves a distinct public service. They help generate consumer sales and thus serve the manufacturing and retail industries, which in turn create myriad jobs. As Trackworks Rail Transit Advertising, Vending & Promotions Inc., the firm that runs the billboard ads along the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), put it in full-page newspaper ads yesterday, the income from them contributes to making the mass transit system affordable to the people.

Unfortunately, advertising can be abused, to the detriment of the people's welfare. One has only to go down Edsa or C-5 and see billboards perched on the roofs of houses and rising as tall as two or three stories of a building to realize the tremendous danger they pose to people. We're hit by at least a dozen typhoons every year, but even without them, a truck hitting the base of a towering ad could wreak just as much havoc.

* * *

It was rather careless of Outboard Advertisers' Association of the Philippines (OAAP) Chair Carlo Llave to say that only 40 billboards out of 2,500 all over Metro Manila fell during the typhoon. "In terms of percentage, that's still a good number," he was quoted as saying. But of those 40 some killed or injured people, and that is not all right. But before positions polarize, the MMDA ought to call a dialogue among the various sectors involved and see what can be done to regulate the industry. What is needed now is the cooperation of everyone, as well as the strict enforcement of regulations that ought to be clear and well-defined.

* * *

Among the hardest hit by the lack of power and phones in recent days is the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, better known as the call centers, and other service-industry businesses. While some agencies in the BPO sector, such as medical transcription, can afford to be a bit delayed in transmitting information, call centers operate on immediacy, which means that power and communication lines must be available 24 hours a day. Unfortunately, many call centers have no emergency generators. In addition, I've heard BPO people complain that there was no adequate warning from government agencies about the typhoon and only a few had an idea how strong it would be.

One vital lesson this typhoon has taught is the need to have the necessary infrastructure for all kinds of weather conditions, which means primarily having emergency generators for the BPOs. Another is that government agencies involved in disaster-handling and control must use all available means to communicate about impending disasters, so they can help people prepare.

* * *

With the recent typhoon, our thoughts cannot but turn to the Asean and East Asian Summit of Leaders, to be hosted in Cebu City by the Philippines, which is also this year's chair of the regional group. Many of us are, doubtless, a bit nervous about this coming event, seeing the kind of havoc nature can wreak here. To be sure, Cebu is not as typhoon-prone as the Pacific side, but there's still the memory of that typhoon hitting Cebu a decade ago that damaged Mactan Bridge and decommissioned it for months.

During the 27th Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization's general assembly held in Cebu City early last month, Cecile Alvarez and I had a chance to interview the glamorous and dynamic Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, who headed the AIPO Philippine delegation. Both assured us that there were **several contingency plans for inclement weather, including transfer to Manila or Subic.**

* * *

Garcia, 51, is very busy right now finishing the world-class Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue, the summit's venue. But there's heavy betting in Cebu on whether it will be finished in time. At any rate, Garcia says that if for some reason it won't be finished, there are several other venues to choose from, not the least of which is the old Cebu Plaza Hotel, now renovated as the Marco Polo Hotel. Cebu City has been the venue of several international conventions and assemblies in recent months, which may be deemed as dress rehearsals for the December summit. Flights to and from Mactan Airport to various foreign destinations have increased, as many foreigners prefer to fly directly to and from Cebu. Easily a couple of hundred local and foreign journalists are expected to attend the summit, not to mention the retinue of each of the 10 Asean leaders and the six or seven "dialogue partners," namely, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Australia and India, and possibly Russia. Very much aware of the boost that Central Visayas tourism would draw from the summit, Garcia is busy packaging her cultural heritage program for the dignitaries, featuring such lovely Cebu old towns as Carcar, Dalaguete, Boljoon, Argao and Santander.

* * *

Iloilo Airport Manager Alan Java wrote to say that even before complaints were aired here about the dirty and unkempt ladies' room in that airport, he had recognized the problem. Given the "meager appropriation" he has received, he said he has been "struggling and trying to improve our facilities." He said he has improved the water supply, contracted additional janitors to attend to the passenger terminal building and installed additional air-conditioning units. "With these initial steps, I'm confident I can somehow alleviate the deteriorating conditions of the old Iloilo Airport, make it more friendly and comfortable for visitors, until we transfer to the new airport (in Sta. Barbara)," he said. He shouldn't forget the ladies' room.

No crabs here

YOUNG BLOOD

Dinah Rose Baseleres-Ladia

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THE MAIDS IN OUR VILLAGE WERE HUDDLED AROUND A lamp post, as if discussing something secret and urgent. I heard snatches of a discussion about one of their colleagues who seems to have gotten a decent-paying job offer in Hong Kong, but whose departure was being imperiled by an envious *kumare*.

From my furtive eavesdropping, I gathered that Neneng, the *kumadre*, was spreading stories about Esme having a propensity for entering into adulterous relationships, in the hope that the latter's husband Pedring would forbid her from leaving because, as these clever maids surmised, absence made the heart wander.

But Esme is as adulterous as the Pope! the maids protested. Neneng really has a crab mentality. A chorus of sympathetic clucking for the unlucky Esme ensued before the group disbanded to return to their blissfully crabless lives.

I don't know if a "crab mentality" is a distinctly Filipino trait, but I do know that Filipinos have that unfortunate reputation. We are all crabs in a basket, and all of us yearn to get out. But the moment someone comes close to clawing his way out, he is pulled down to share the sorry lot of the other crabs. Misery loving company doesn't sound uniquely Filipino, but why are we known for being bitter and scheming?

I don't have the answer to that. If envy is a very human emotion, then why don't I ever feel the stirrings of anything remotely like it? Perhaps it has to do with being raised in a family where plugging away is encouraged. My father, in particular, would smack us on the head if we ever waste time lamenting our lower middle-class existence.

And so I walked the hallowed halls of my all-girls high school in kung fu shoes that had seen better days, easily the poorest-looking in a sea of coiffed, cologne-sprayed girls in trendy signature clothes. I didn't have time to begrudge the rich and pretty what was theirs. I was too busy trying to maintain my scholarship and avoiding my father's ire or my mother's quiet disappointment.

I knew very well where my parents were coming from. My father put himself through journalism school on scholarships and a string of odd jobs. Despite his often meager pay, he managed to help put several of his siblings through nursing school and law school with his regular contribution to their allowances. He was a small-town boy who delivered telegrams during the day and read Shakespeare and Updike at night, surprising his folks and everyone who thought he was a lost cause by making the dean's list and the varsity chess team, and then being picked as editor of the university paper. My mother was a barrio lass who always put nose to grinder, eventually earning a PhD and a seat as director in one of the nation's top universities. I don't see how they could have gotten that far, if all they ever did was sit back and police those who tried to get out of the basket.

Whenever well-meaning friends try to find a reason for someone's duplicity, they say, "*Inggit lang kasi sila sa 'yo*" (See, they're just jealous of you). Someone is blabbering about your personal life? *Inggit*. Someone is deliberately giving you a hard time? *Inggit*. Someone is trying to sabotage your career? *Inggit*. Someone blacked out your teeth in your campaign posters? *Inggit*.

So I don't understand the need to devote one's energies to gloating over other people's failure. Whatever victories you win after some bitter battles must feel hollow and, ultimately, counterfeit.

It must be incredibly stressful to be so jealous. Perhaps this explains why the most bitter people I know have bad skin, generally ugly countenances and no muscle tone. Because how can you find time to take care of your body if you're so busy making sure everyone's is as revolting as you? It is true that the best cosmetic is happiness, and happiness comes from a healthy sense of self.

My family taught me the Nenengs of this world will marinate in their own bitterness, spending their lives pulling other people back simply because they're too lazy to do the hard work that brings progress. What a gloomy existence it must be to feel greatly threatened by even the smallest victories of others. It's hard enough to find meaning in our own lives without having to worry about how other people are living theirs.

Perhaps I'm fortunate to have been born to a family like ours. My brothers steadily search for their own places under the sun, even as they're genuinely ecstatic when a family member's efforts are crowned with success. In my husband I find quiet support as I pursue my life's passion. From my closest friends I get an ample dose of acerbic comments to keep my healthy ego in check. From the other people around me I get invaluable cautionary tales about how resentment only primes you for the lonely life of a shriveled old person.

If everyone else had the support system I have been lucky to have since I was young, perhaps there would be more people doing their own thing instead of minding other people's business and hurting over their successes.

It is because of my family's no-crabs policy that I feel an obligation to live and let live and support others if possible. If I can help other people while I help myself, I consider that a cosmic treat—or an honor, even. I'm just a little critter doing my best to get out of each basket I happen to fall into. But I know without a doubt—with a certainty I can almost taste in my mouth—that I'm going to get ahead in this world. And if anyone wants to come along, he is certainly most welcome.

Dinah Rose Baseleres-Ladia, 26, is BS Physics graduate of Silliman University. She has made it a personal mission to learn how to cook crabs.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Breast cancer and testosterone

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS Month, with a host of activities being launched by groups, ranging from private companies and survivor support groups to medical societies and advocacy organizations.

One of the more active groups raising public awareness about breast cancer and providing support for women coping with the disease is Bosom Care, a breast cancer support group based in Bacolod. Led by Cecile Nava, a breast cancer survivor herself and respected figure in Bacolod art circles, Bosom Care "seeks to provide breast cancer survivors with opportunities to live full, productive and meaningful lives." It coordinates with organizations like the Philippine Society of Medical Oncologists, I Can Serve Foundation, Philippine Breast Cancer Network, and Philippine Cancer Society in sponsoring lectures and seminars on breast cancer, with the aim of providing its members with better knowledge about the disease so they can make informed decisions about their treatment and cure.

Bosom Care also refers cases, especially of indigent women, to the Conchita Gaston Cancer Foundation, the DSWD, the PCSO among others, and collaborates with local oncologists and surgeons by doing advocacy work in schools, offices and organizations. The group also pays for mammograms for indigent women at the Riverside Medical Center, where it has signed an agreement for discounted rates for its members.

Bosom Care held its second annual "Fun Run" last Sunday with the theme "Run for a Loved One." "Breast cancer remains the most common cancer in Negros Occidental," writes Nava, adding that more than 600 new cases are reported each year at the Corazon Locsin-Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital alone.

Perhaps it might not be too farfetched to assume that, given this rate of incidence, everyone in Negros Occidental would end up knowing someone who has died of or is battling breast cancer.

* * *

ANOTHER fund-raising effort of Bosom Care is an art exhibit/sale ongoing (until Oct. 7) at the Orange Gallery called "Agubay" (Ilonggo word for support).

The exhibit was opened last Sept. 23 by Gretchen Cojuangco, standing in for Rep. Charlie Cojuangco, and civic leaders Prima "Inday" Pefianco and Fe Remitio. Participating artists include Charlie Co, 1990 CCP 13 Artists awardee and Philip Morris Asean Arts Awards Jurors' Choice, together with Kelly Sonio, 2006 Metrobank Young Artists awardee for sculpture; and Jose "Buglas" Carreon Jr. and Michael John Pama, both of them finalists in the 2006 Shell National Students Arts Competition. The artists not only agreed to donate part of the proceeds to Bosom Care, but also offered their works at lower prices, the better to generate funds for Bosom Care's information campaign and free mammograms for indigents.

"But then this is not the first time visual artists have generously banded together to raise funds for the sick," notes Nava. "In 2001, 17 of them put up 'Gugma' (Love) at L'Fisher Hotel as a surprise Valentine's gift to raise funds for my chemotherapy. Unlike (in) other shows where the beneficiary only gets a percentage, 'Gugma' was unprecedented because the artists gave even the unsold works to me."

Nava adds that in 2003, Bacolod artists held an exhibit called "Halad" at Café Marias to raise funds for the hospitalization of the late playwright and cultural worker Joel Arbulario, while earlier this year, the same artists also held a fundraiser for former Hiraya Gallery curator Bobi Valenzuela.

So who said art and advocacy could not go together? In Bacolod, artists and advocates have formed a strong bond, united in common cause to, as the Bosom Care slogan declares, "Nip Breast Cancer in the Bud."

* * *

TESTORONE overload is a clear and present danger for those watching "The Departed," the new police and crime drama that makes up the latest of director Martin Scorsese's filmic explorations of the criminal underground.

In this movie, Jack Nicholson plays the kingpin of a Boston Irish mob organization whose operations have become the focus of the state police and the FBI. Leonardo di Caprio is the scion of a family of petty hoods who's pulled out of police academy with a special assignment: To infiltrate Nicholson's organization and eventually bring down the mob boss. But thwarting his efforts is a hotshot detective played by Matt Damon who is, unknown to his superiors, a "mole" in the heart of the police headquarters planted in turn by Nicholson's character. It's a "cat-and-mouse" game between the two "rats" as they sniff out each other's existence and try to unmask the other's identity.

* * *

DI CAPRIO has the pithier role as a young hood sought to escape his family history only to find himself marinated in the criminal lifestyle his father had worked so hard to deny. He gives an edgy performance as a young man close to self-destruction and holding himself together by sheer force of will.

But Matt Damon, who "attacks" his role with a more laid-back approach, is no slouch, either. It's really difficult to convey evil and corruption while remaining so damn likeable.

Nicholson, though, steals every scene he's in. In some instances, he looks like he's actually enjoying scaring the hell out of his younger costars, embodying menace with every glare and sneer. Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen and Alec Baldwin lend excellent support.

Special mention must be made of the screenplay that captures the grit and tension of a criminal world where it's nearly impossible to tell the good guys from the bad, the criminal from the law enforcer, given the rapid exchange of betrayals and lies, mischief, mayhem and murder.

The challenge of Cha-cha

COMMENTARY

Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.

THE NOTED FRENCH POLITICAL HISTORIAN, Baron de Montesquieu, once went to England where he paid tribute to its parliamentary form of government. But he declared that kind of system seemed fitting for the English, not necessarily for others because a nation's government should reflect the peoples' traditions, their land, their hopes and their aspirations. For France, the peoples' desires rested on basic freedoms that should not be unduly curtailed by a dominant authoritarian ruler. He therefore advocated a form of government in France that would protect the diverse interests of the people and make tyranny impossible by dividing all the power of governance into the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

This system is what we in the Philippines adopted. This presidential form of government has flaws, but the deficiencies are mainly in the implementation by men, not in the system itself.

The Filipino desires to vote directly for the nation's leader. It is his meaningful participation in government, and its exercise during elections gives life to the declaration that sovereignty resides in the people.

He also wants freedom not just from a colonial master but from abuse and undue domination by our own government. That is why the Constitution has enshrined a system of checks and balances. Because we are like the passengers in one big bus who rely on brakes being applied to make the journey safe. The legislature, composed of the Senate and the House, enact the laws, the executive enforces them. One has the power to investigate in aid of legislation, the other has the capacity to veto unwise legislation or specific items in the budget. As an additional safeguard, the judiciary possesses the power to review and declare an act unconstitutional or illegal for lack of or being in excess of jurisdiction.

The challenge of Cha-cha if successful may reverse this process. Instead of a rational division of powers, there will be a fusion of prerogatives in one body—the parliament. Its members enact, and they implement. No breaks, no safeguards. They enter into illegal contracts or borrow for questionable transactions, no deterrents. They change the economy or alter the rules, no impediments. They do something like the Venable contract that harnesses foreign funds to the prejudice of national interest, no obstacle—not even the Supreme Court's power to review, because by then they will have defanged the Court of such power or relegated the same to a subordinate level as done in many parliaments. The Supreme Court will become less supreme, answerable to parliament. And if there is no impeachment now, there will likely be no impeachment for the interim assembly because they have already increased in their proposal the required number to impeach from one-third to a majority of members of parliament.

When the prime minister commits a grievous wrong under a regular parliamentary system, an aggrieved member may file a motion for a vote of no confidence, and if the motion is granted and a majority vote that they no longer have confidence, then that prime minister has to step down and fresh elections are scheduled to determine who will lead the next government.

But this is good in theory, not in practice. Because when a no-confidence motion is made, there usually follows a cooling off period of several days. Then political ploys come in. The grievous wrong is reassessed, hurt feelings are assuaged, new promises made and most likely the movant himself withdraws his motion. A sitting prime minister who knows his craft can hardly be booted out. He is the head of the executive and legislative. Under him, the body legislates and implements the laws, and dominates the judiciary. He approves disbursements of funds, makes appointments, exercises tremendous influence over members of parliament itself.

The example of Thailand comes to mind. In spite of much unrest during his tenure, there did not arise a vote of no confidence against Thaksin Shinawatra—and the military had to oust him. Good for Thailand, they have a king and dedicated generals there. In the Philippines we may also have some dedicated generals but we have no king—which is a characteristic requirement of a parliamentary form of government: A monarch as in England, an emperor as in Japan, or a respected head of state as in India, to act as a responsible stabilizer in the wake of sweeping unrest.

Changing the Constitution is more vital than just changing an important law. Because it will shape the future course of events, we should ensure that we meet the other requirements of a parliamentary form of government such as disciplined parties. We should not try to cure them after we shall have rushed to a parliamentary form, like prohibiting the transfer of a member from one party to another, because this remedy may clash with the basic freedom of an individual to choose his party.

The other requirement for a successful parliamentary is a strong civil service because it is the civil servants who will carry on the business of government while changes in the prime minister and his Cabinet are being made. Do we now have a strong civil service?

Finally, a healthy change needs deliberation. Our present Constitution requires the correct legal processes be observed and that a plebiscite be conducted before it is changed. If we change to a parliamentary system, parliament can change the Constitution again and again. It can change or remove the economic provisions, restrict or stifle accountability. It can even remove the plebiscite—because the essence of merging the three branches of government into one parliament will make that government a virtual dictatorship of a selected few.

God save the nation!

Teofisto Guingona Jr. is a former vice president and senator.

THEY SAID

Stupid statement

"Mr. Secretary, I did not imagine the rape. Since your people are supposed to be prosecuting my rapists, you should never have said that ... I'm not that stupid to have put myself in this predicament by making things up."
—*Alleged rape victim "Nicole"*

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Fudging facts and bishop's 'political correctness'

LETTERS

BISHOP TEODORO BACANI'S REaction to Muslim expressions of outrage ("Outraged Muslims draw sympathy from bishop," PDI, 9/25/06) is a perfect example of political correctness gone berserk. Indeed, about as berserk as the expressions of Muslim outrage that we read about in newspapers and see on TV.

Christian churches in the West Bank and Gaza are firebombed, an elderly nun in Somalia is fatally shot four times in the back, vile language is used against the Pope in street demonstrations, threats of jihad are made, the assassination of the Pope is dangled, and calls to raise the green flag of Islam over the Vatican are sounded, and Bishop Bacani's response is to reveal how his heart bleeds for a Middle Eastern-looking or Indian man stopped by US immigration authorities? There is something inappropriate about that reaction.

Did the Pope say anything that was untruthful? No—the surah he quoted is found in the Koran. What did Mohammed incorporate into Islam other than monotheism, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and pilgrimage—elements that also can be found in Judaism and Christianity? Jihad, of course. Is it a historical fact that Islam was spread by the sword? Yes—to the Near and Middle East, parts of the Balkans, to Turkey, North Africa and Spain.

To accommodate Muslim feelings, Bishop Bacani has bent way far backward that he has toppled into irrelevant examples. So what if the last two world wars were waged by Christian nations? These wars were over political, not religious, hegemony.

Of course, someone is bound to resurrect the tired old chestnut that the Crusades were just as bloody, and Christianity itself has its share of cruelties in the name of religion. But this is missing the point that the central message of Christianity does not include evangelization by the sword. Those cruel acts were distortions and violations of the Christian message of salvation; jihad, on the other hand, is not a distortion of Islam, but a duty.

We do ourselves and Muslims no favor by fudging the facts, blaming the Pope and condoning violent behavior. Doing so encourages more of the same; it is infantilizing and patronizing. It assumes Muslims are incapable of rising above the level of raw emotion to engage in rational discourse and behavior.

If, as Bishop Bacani suggests, we must not judge all Muslims by the extremists, we can still reasonably ask, what are moderate Muslims, supposedly the majority, doing to contain the extremists?

I am also saddened that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has not come out in support of the Pope's appeal for rational dialogue among religions, or expressed any sorrow over the murder of Sister Leonella or solidarity with our Christian brethren suffering oppressive conditions in Muslim nations. Muslims, at least, have ummah; we, on the other hand, have—only political correctness.

—ARACELI Z. LORAYES,
112 Guava Drive,
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Collegian denounces 'fascist military,' UP suppression

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGIAN, UP Diliman's official student publication, expresses its solidarity with the UP students who pelted AFP chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon with eggs and mud. They have been denounced as an "imprudent" act and a "gross disrespect to the human person." The Collegian commends them for their courage.

The pelting incident was only a reaction to the abduction of UP students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, both of whom remain missing to this day. It was triggered by the killing of leftists and the gross violation of human rights by the fascist military. The Collegian believes that nothing can be more shameful than to remain silent in the face of these iniquities.

As a campus publication espousing advocacy journalism, the Collegian is all too familiar with how this fascist military operates. Just recently, one of our photographers, Juan Paolo Verzosa, was harassed and threatened by no less than a ranking military officer during a Court of Appeals hearing on the abducted UP students. The officer forcibly took pictures of Verzosa and warned the latter against having the officer's pictures used by the opposition. Verzosa was further subjected to verbal assaults like *"Kilala ko na ang hitsura mo," "Sasapakin kita,"* and *"Iba ako magalit,"* even while Verzosa was wearing his press ID.

The Collegian thus deems it imperative that students should let the government know of their disgust at such wanton disregard for the people's democratic rights. If there was anything shameful in that particular event, it was that the forum was headlined by the AFP's fascist propaganda, and that bags, even those belonging to some professors, were inspected for "deadly weapons" supposedly to safeguard the participants. Surely, such acts are not in consonance with the collective struggle of the students against repression within and outside the university.

It is also in this light that the Collegian condemns the continued repression of the publication by the UP administration which, to date, has yet to recognize the autonomy of the publication, and has doggedly refused to release the Collegian's funds, thus paralyzing its operations. We therefore urge all students to join us in our fight against this apparent attack on campus press freedom, and to the right of UP students to an independent campus publication.

—KARL FREDRICK M. CASTRO,
editor in chief,
Philippine Collegian,
www.philippinecollegian.net

The place to be

ARTURO REYES OF NEW YORK hit the nail on the head with his comment about Michael Tan's column on the United States. (PDI, 9/29/06) Despite all its faults and warts, America is the place to be, regardless of race and nationality. Talent is still recognized, respected and encouraged here.

Here in America, a hard worker will not go hungry. And one's financial situation is not a hindrance to pursuing higher education. My wife's niece went into California State University with help of state grants and federal student loans. She was even a below-average student. (She had free tutoring for her classes.) Her tuitions were paid by the state and her room and food were paid by her federal loan. She got this deal because her family's total income was below poverty level. Now she has a good job in a county hospital.

—MEL LUALHATI,
mapua752002@yahoo.com

PCGG Chairman Camilo Sabio at a Senate committee hearing.

Only judge can issue warrant of arrest

THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY concerning the Senate arrest and detention of PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio has raised the question: "Has the Senate the authority to issue a warrant of arrest against a person who refuses or fails to obey a Senate subpoena?"

Under our Constitution's Bill of Rights, only a judge is authorized to issue a warrant of arrest (or a search warrant) "upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce." (Sec. 2, Art. III) As it is, no officer in the executive or legislative branches of the government is vested with such authority.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., an acknowledged authority on Constitutional Law, who sponsored the resolution on the Bill of Rights in the Constitutional Commission that drafted our Constitution, in his sponsorship speech explained: "The provision on Sec. 3 (Sec. 2 in the final draft) reverts to the 1935 formula by eliminating the 1973 phrase "or such other responsible officer as may be authorized by law." It also has the word "personally." In other words, warrants under this proposal can be issued only by judges." (Records, Constitutional Commission, Vol. 1, P. 673)

To iterate, under the 1973 Constitution, a warrant of arrest may be issued by—other than a judge—any responsible officer authorized by law. Under the 1987 Constitution, only a judge is authorized to issue a warrant of arrest.

The warrant of arrest issued by the Senate against Sabio was for the latter's alleged refusal or failure to attend a scheduled Senate hearing in spite of a Senate subpoena. Under the Rules of Court, the unjustified refusal or failure of a witness to obey a subpoena constitutes indirect contempt of the officer or instrumentality of the government that issued the subpoena. This offense is punishable with imprisonment or a fine, but only after a charge in writing is filed with the proper court as in a criminal proceeding. If the court finds probable cause, a warrant of arrest may be issued against the person charged and, thereafter, the case will be heard. In view of the nature of the penalty, the offense of indirect contempt is bailable.

—PABLO P. GARCIA,
former governor, Cebu;
member, Consultative Commission

Commuters disadvantaged by new diversion road

A DIVERSION ROAD WAS opened last year by-passing the town proper of Tiaong, Quezon. It was a welcome development for motorists, especially for the truckers and drivers of private vehicles. But it has become a bane to commuters from Lucena City and Sariaya who take the "jeepneys" from Tiaong on their way to Lipa City and neighboring towns.

Buses plying the Lucena-Manila route, most of them belonging to JAC, JAM, Lucena Lines and some South Star, intentionally by-pass Tiaong town proper, to the disadvantage of commuting teachers and employees working in San Antonio, Quezon, Padre Garcia, Batangas or Lipa City.

The Land Transportation Franchise Regulatory Board should look into this problem and impose sanctions against the bus companies.

—J.M. CLEDERA,
LBP-Marauoy, Lipa City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Sitsoon Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cam		Philippine Idol	Ultimate Guinness World Records		ALI		Big News	Vote For Me	Philippine Idol
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema		Worst Case Scenario	Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World	Max Exposure (Season I)	Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bilyong Walang Ningning	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy Las Vegas (Season 2)	Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		House (Season II)		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Yugioh Showdown	Basstmaster		Mirumo De Pon		Pokemon, Johto Journey	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel			Oras Oras Araw Araw		Max Steel	Robotboy	Moga Munting Ting		Dios' Justrisers		Weyt A Mind Kapeng Maint				The Grudge 2	
Cinema One		Mmmao May Isang Ina	Rio Bravo (3:25 PM)									Into The Sun						The Opposite Of Sex (11:10PM)	
Cinemax								A Cry In The Dark (5:55 PM)							Wish Hunt (9:35 PM)				
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		The Grid/ The Closer		E-Ring		Law & Order Criminal Intent/ Oz	
Discovery Channel				Rides		Ultimate Discovery		Perfect Disaster		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Ultimate Discovery		Perfect Disaster		Blueprint For Disaster	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-leashive Bunny	Mickey Mousework	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science Yr. 2	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN	Cheerleading USA Spirit Nat'l Chmp	Asian X Games						Asian X Games '05 - Show 2						Sportscenter Asia	World Pool League '05 Poland		World Pool League '05 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The OC Season 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News				Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Studio 69		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chariot Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	The Inside Edition	Daily Mass		Holy Land/ Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code/ The Natural Law	Celebrate/ Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Acawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pambabago (3:45 PM)		Salyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Babay Mo Ba 10?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F. B.Eye	The Stepsister	Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause	The Big Preview: World Trade Center	Judging Amy		Thicker Than Water			
HBO			Going Bananas (3:45 PM)							Tremors				Entourage 21: Exodus	Entourage 22: The Abyss	Warm Springs			
Hero TV	Tokyo Underground	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Salyuki Raised	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Serbis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Vidop Topicu Arms	Just For Laughs	Travel Philippines	Japan Vidop Topicu Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Experience		Heat		X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		That 70s Show		My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Girl	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines		Sessions Chillies	VH1 Fabulous Life of Simon Cowell	VH1 Fabulous Life of Ruth Reiner	Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	Handpicked Chillies	TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena	Sessions Chillies	VH1 Fabulous Life of Usher	VH1 Fabulous Life of Missy Elliot
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	CPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYXellaneous	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Giant Otters		Hidden Worlds		Predators At War		The Adventure Of Zhang Ho		Spies That Fly		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Hollywood Scenes		Hunter Hunted	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Telecharge Sports Actp.			Divas Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo Wil (ex. Linda & Angelyn Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talakayan Sa Isyung Pulis		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Barilan OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ais Sa Daang Diyan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ais Sa Daang Diyan		Ang Pagbubuyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalizone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO		Utol					Betas Mo, Betas Ko				Pasaway Na Mutlo			Sinasamba Kita					Batangueño Kalaliyo
Qtv	Starry Starry Night	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Sawagas	Jake In Progress	Project Runway		Austria's Next Top Model		Good Girls Don't	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Train		
SBN 21								Sony Music Vidoh				Ores Ng Himala		Ores ng Kalokohan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports								Billards: WC Pool		Fight For Re-vithge Agonsot vs Bular-Bular				ITZ		Sportsdesk		Racewold	
Star Movies		Almost Famous					Wicker Park				Swarmed			The Grudge			White Noise (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	One Tree Hill		Desperate Housewives		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	One Tree Hill
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon)	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion	Smallville (8:15 PM)		Gilmore Girls		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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Across the NATION

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

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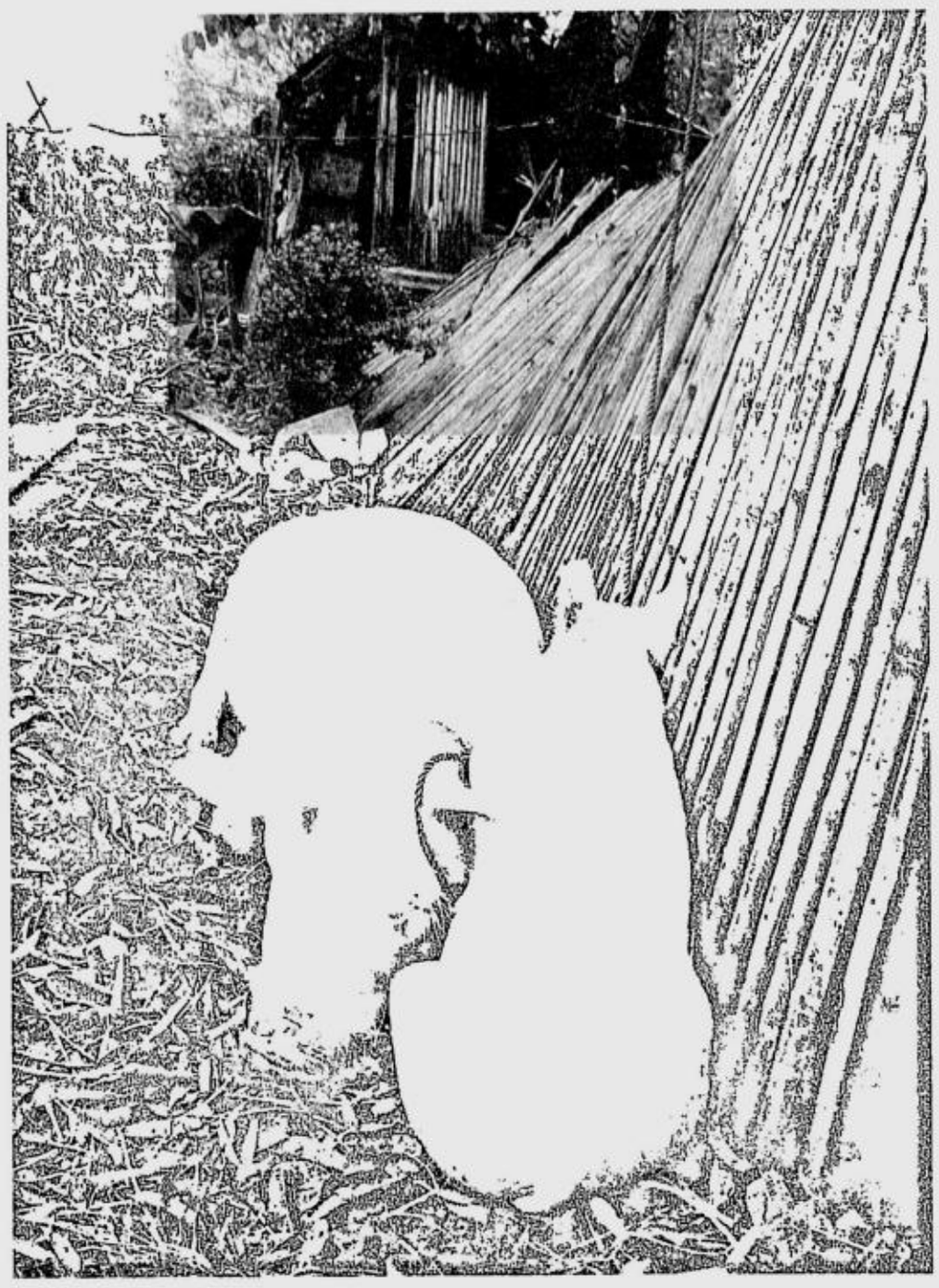


Foreign help sought in deadlock of talks

DAVAO CITY—A KEY player in peace talks between the government and Moro separatist guerrillas said foreign leaders were helping find a solution to a deadlock in the talks over the issue of territory.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said leaders of other countries are studying new options as a way of breaking the deadlock in talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), particularly on the ancestral domain issue.

In a statement e-mailed from Madrid yesterday, Dureza, who is meeting with other international peace negotiators, said "there is always a way forward. Just like in the many more problematic situations in the world, a peaceful settlement can be achieved provided both sides are determined to mutually seek peace."

"I know the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) wants peace for the Bangsamoro people. We in government and the rest of the people who are tired of conflict also aspire for peace. Looking for the way is what this is all about. It may not be easy. But President Arroyo and the whole nation are determined to seek the path to peace," Dureza said.

During the peace talks in Kuala Lumpur last month, government and MILF peace negotiators failed to resolve territorial questions. Despite this, the MILF still said that it wants to pursue peace negotiations with the government.

Dureza, the statement said, sounded off to the top peace negotiators convened in Spain the possible options that can be studied for the Philippine case that other nations are able to adopt successfully. Dureza, however did not describe the options.

He, however, said Philippine case may be unique in its own way but "lessons learned in other parts of the world can be insightful." *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

MUSLIM rebels stop for inspection a Japanese journalist during a press conference called by the Moro Islamic liberation Front in their camp in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao. JEFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

SHELTERED NINO IE! ORBETA QUIRER S HER

A couple of pigs in Barangay Ilawod in Camalig, Albay have been placed inside a pen fenced by bamboo to shelter them from strong winds brought by Typhoon "Milenyo" Sept. 27.

Group says land mine use in RP increasing

LUCENA CITY—INDISCRIMINate land mine use in the Philippines continued to claim lives and cause serious injuries not only among armed protagonists but also innocent civilians, an anti-land mine monitoring group disclosed in its 2006 report.

According to Dr. Paz Verdades M. Santos, Landmine Monitor researcher for the Philippines, at least 65 people were killed in several land mine explosions last year—which included seven civilians.

At least 80 persons were also injured, 12 of them civilians.

"This is a nearly 300-percent increase on the 47 casualties reported in 2004," the Santos report said, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER.

Until May this year, the Landmine Monitor said mine explosions had already claimed six more lives and injured nine others.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) established Landmine Monitor in June 1998 to monitor and report on the implementation of and compliance with the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

The monitor noted that casualty figures in land mine explosions have been steadily increasing since 1991.

It said that between 1991 and 1995, at least 19 persons were killed and 50 suffered various degrees of injuries.

Santos also cited incidents in 2004 involving unexploded ordnance (UXO), which killed a farmer and seriously injured his brother while they were plowing a field.

In all these explosions, Landmine Monitor lamented the lack of formal mine action program of the government, especially for civilian victims.

Santos noted that although medical and rehabilitation care was available, many civilians, especially in conflict areas, could not still afford it.

She said land mine casualties were being treated in the same way as other conflict casualties.

Although military and civilian casualties were taken to the nearest military or government hospital for immediate treatment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development had no specific programs for civilian land mine survivors, Santos said.

The research noted that the rise in casualty index since May last year was the result of the intensified use of NPA rebels of command-detonated improvised antivehicle mines in its attacks against government forces. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

MILF guerrillas on orders to be prepared for war

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has ordered its forces to be prepared for war in the wake of a deadlock in peace talks with the government, a rebel spokesperson said.

A few weeks ago, government and MILF negotiators failed to reach an agreement over the issue of territory. The issue was seen as the biggest stumbling block to the signing of a peace agreement.

The MILF wanted a larger area for the future Bangsamoro entity but the government said it could only allow the inclusion of at least 600 villages.

The MILF has also disagreed with the government's position that the peace talks should be conducted within the framework of the Constitution.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said MILF forces have been placed under red alert and were told to defend their communities when attacked.

But he pledged there would be no MILF-initiated attacks.

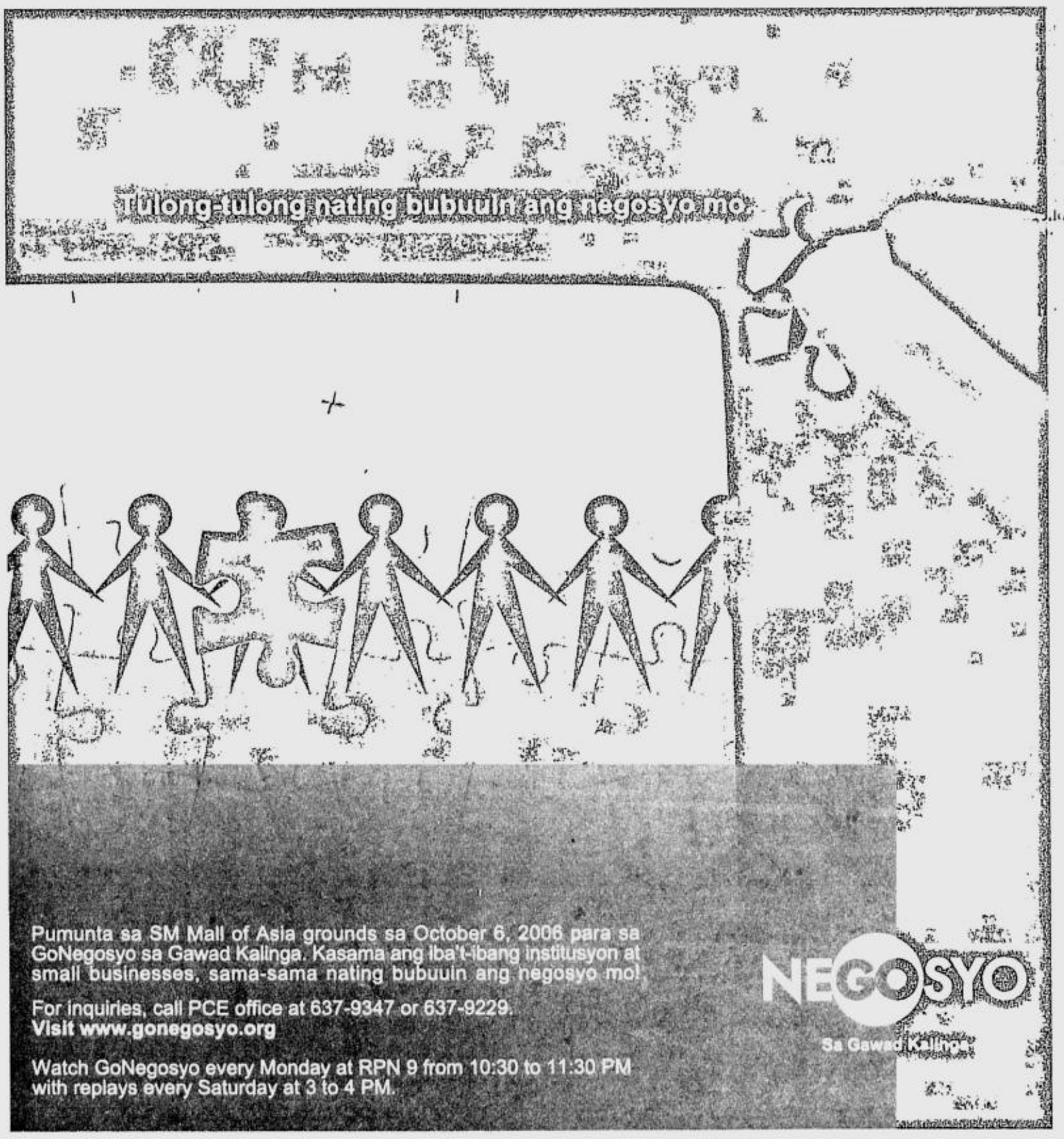
"Unless we are attacked, our forces would remain in standby positions," Kabalu said.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said they remain committed to the peace process.

"We are facing right now the most sensitive issue in the peace talks," he said.

Jaafar said the MILF has adopted a "wait and see" attitude in the wake of the failure of negotiators to arrive at an agreement.

"Our next move depends on the government's move," Jaafar said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*



NEGOSYO
Sa Gawad Kalinga

06 October 2006 PROGRAM
SM MALL OF ASIA GROUNDS
9:15 a.m.
FORUM 1: Ang Kagalingan ng PagNenegosyo: (The Value of Entrepreneurship)
Speakers: Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan*, Sec. Arthur Yap (PMS), Tony Meloto & Frank Padilla (Gawad Kalinga), Atty. Felipe Gozon (GMA Network, Inc), Butch Campos (Nutri Asia), Dr. Roland Hortaleza (Splash Corp.), Henry Lim Bon Liong (Sterling Paper Group of Co.) and other Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) Trustees and Partners
Moderator: Connie Sison & Anthony Pangilinan
10: 40 a.m.
Entertainment: Ariel & Maverick

10:50 a.m.
FORUM 2: Masaganang Produksyon: Katapat ay Nutrisyon at Pangkabuhayan: (GK Communities as Agri-Producers: The Agri-Franchising Model)
Speakers: Toto Barcelona (Harbest), Lyndon Tan* (Basic Necessities – Vegetable producer, exporter), Anthony Inocencio* (AP Inocencio Farms – Chicken), Danilo Fausto (DVF Dairy Farms), Dizon Farms, Arturo Sanvictores* (United Rubber Planters and Processors Assoc.), Gerry Geronimo* (Ating Alamin), Jose Concepcion, Jr.* (RFM-Swift)
Moderator: Karen Davila*
12:10 a.m.
Entertainment: Leo Martinez
12:35 p.m.
Lunchbreak

1:30 p.m.
FORUM 3: Talk It Over : Ating Pagusapan, Prosesong Pang-Asenso Processing: (Teaching communities how to earn and 'fish' for life) Speakers: Lorna Pimentel*, BFAR, (Fish processing), Joy Contrera*, BAI (Meat processing), Susan Lozano*, BPI (Fruits and Vegetables Processing), Director Ricardo Cachuela*, BPRE (Barangay Food Terminal Concept) , Bgy. Captain Jose A. Diaz*, Bgy. Philam, Q.C. (Composting)
Moderator: Cheryl Coslm*
2:50 p.m.
Entertainment: Ony Carcamo: Ventriloquist

3:00 p.m.
FORUM 4: Iba't-Ibang Negosyong Babagay Sa 'Yo: (Various Business Models: Internet, Franchising, Micro Enterprises and Micro Financing)
Speakers: Butch Jimenez* (PLDT), Richie Cuna (President, AFFI), Ray Gapuz (R A. Gapuz Review), Doyee Tumpalan* (First VitaPlus), Ed Jimenez* (Microfinance Council), Les Reyes* (Reyes HairCutters), JM Tanalgo* (BCI), Sandy Javier (Andoks), Lloyd Luna
Moderators: Mike Enriquez*
4:20 p.m.
Entertainment

4:30 p.m.
FORUM 5: Sikat na, Negosyante pa! Grabe ang Kita! : (Celebrity Entrepreneurs)
Speakers: Dr. Vicky Belo* (Belo Medical Group), Fanny Serrano* (The Bridal Shop), Joel Torre* (JT Manukan Grille), Arnel Ignacio* (Arneli's Creative Hair System), Janice and Gelli de Belen, Wilma Doesnt, Richard Merk, Regine Tolentino
Moderators: Butch Francisco* or Ricky Lo*
6:10 p.m.
Close: (Edru Abraham: Kontra Gapi)
Discussions on the how-to's and demonstration, success stories, innovations/processing technologies, industry situationer/profiling
**Not confirmed*

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET
SUPER AUCTION SALE
OCTOBER 07, 2006 ~ Saturday ~ 9:30AM ~ 11/F UCPB BLDG., MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY

10% DOWNPAYMENT | 11% INTEREST | 10 YEARS TO PAY

Town and Country
Dasmariñas, Cavite
20 Residential Lots ~ LA 170-200 sqm
ONLY AT P2,160/sqm

Villa Josefina Resort Village
Talomo, Davao Del Sur
66 Residential Lots ~ LA 105-650 sqm
AS LOW AS P3,420/sqm

Manila Southwoods Res'l. & Golf & Country Club
Carmona, Cavite
5 Residential Lots ~ LA 470-615 sqm
ONLY AT P3,600/sqm

St. Joseph Homes Subdivision
Toril, Davao Del Sur
41 Residential Lots ~ LA 60-110 sqm
ONLY AT P990.00/sqm

METRO MANILA
CALOOCAN
Prop. 1 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 650 sqm FA 564 sqm Lot 5 Blk 48-D # 86 & 88-A A. del Mundo St. Grace Park. Minimum Bid Price: P 8,409,900.00
Prop. 2 – Resl. Lot LA 240 sqm Blk 18 L 19 Along Coaster St., Brixtonville Subd., Brgy. 175, Camarin Minimum Bid Price: P 672,000.00

LAS PIÑAS
Prop. 3 – Resl. Lot LA 339 sqm Lot 18 Blk 3 cor. Sampaguita (Champaca) & Cherry Blossoms Sts., Rainbow Village 3, Brgy. Almanza. Minimum Bid Price: P 1,356,000.00
Prop. 4 – Resl. Lot LA 241 sqm Lot 2 Blk 2 Lakatan St., Golden Acres Subd., Brgy. Almanza Minimum Bid Price: P 602,500.00

MAKATI CITY
Prop. 5 – Comm'l. Condo. FA 380.26 sqm Unit 1-A (G/F) Biltmore Condo., 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Vill. (w/ 3 parking slots) Minimum Bid Price: P 34,910,000.00
Prop. 6 – Parking Slot Area 12 sqm Slot No 18 Basement 3 Biltmore Condo., 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Vill. Minimum Bid Price: P 450,000.00
Prop. 7 – WITHDRAWN
Parking Slots 88 Corp. Valero cor. Sedeño Sts. Salcedo Vill.
Prop. 7A – PS-1BP-13 Area 12 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 450,000.00
Prop. 7B – PS-1BP-16 Area 12 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 450,000.00
Comm'l. Condo 3rd Flr. Valero Plaza (Cityland Condo IV) No. 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Prop. 8 – Unit 339 FA 30.88 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 9 – Unit 340 FA 30.88 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 10 – Unit 341 FA 30.88 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 11 – Unit 342 FA 31.02 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 12 Unit 343 FA 29.76 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,600.00
Prop. 13 – Unit 344 FA 29.76 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,600.00
Prop. 14 – Unit 345 FA 31.02 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 15 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 633 sqm FA 442 sqm #1765 & 1767 Garcia St., (Reposo St.) San Miguel Village. Minimum Bid Price: P 17,616,800.00
Prop. 16 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 12,322 sqm #2248 Chino Roces Ave., (Pasong Tamo Ext.) Kayamanan B. Minimum Bid Price: P 460,899,000.00
Prop. 17 – Resl. Condo FA 211 sqm Lot 1 Blk 2 Unit 201 Maksu Prime City, St. Paul St., San Antonio, Minimum Bid Price: P 4,320,000.00
Prop. 18 – Resl. Condo FA 42.90 sqm Unit C8-5F9 5/F Makati Prime City Condo. Cluster 8 St. Paul St., San Antonio Vill. Minimum Bid Price: P 1,373,000.00
Prop. 19 – Comm'l. Lot LA 478 sqm Lot 4 Blk 22 Kalayaan Ave. corner Kawit St. Sta. Cruz Minimum Bid Price: P 8,604,000.00

MANILA
Prop. 20 – Resl. Condo. FA 110.05 sqm Suite 7-H Columbian Int'l. Towers Condo., 500 Santol St. Sta. Mesa Minimum Bid Price: P 2,311,000.00

MANDALUYONG
Parking Slot Ark Condo #92 Sierra Madre St.
Prop. 21 – Unit B FA 10.25 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 22 – Unit C FA 10.25 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 23 – Unit E FA 10.25 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 24 – Unit G FA 10.25 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 25 – Unit H FA 10.25 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 26 – Unit K FA 12.50 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 350,000.00

PARAÑAQUE
Prop. 27 – Resl. Lot LA 572 sqm L2 Abalone St., Jaleville Subd. San Dionisio, Minimum Bid Price: P 2,690,000.00
Prop. 28 – Resl. Condo FA 157.20 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot) 9th Flr. Chateau de Baie Condo. Roxas Boulevard cor. Airport Road, Baclaran Minimum Bid Price: P 3,220,000.00
Prop. 29 – WITHDRAWN

PASAY
Prop. 30 – Resl. Condo FA 41.75 sqm Unit B3 (Basement and Unit 3) ID, IPI Buendia Tower Condo., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., San Isidro Minimum Bid Price: P 919,000.00
Prop. 31 – Resl. Lot LA 399 sqm Lot 649-A Cuneta Avenue Minimum Bid Price: P 7,980,000.00

PASIG
Prop. 32 – Comm'l. Lot LA 922 sqm Lot 16 Blk 5 San Miguel Ave. & Amethyst St., Ortigas Center Brgy. San Antonio Minimum Bid Price: P 110,363,450.00
Prop. 33 – Comm'l. Condo FA 140.14 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot) Unit 706 7th Flr. The Tapon Place Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Minimum Bid Price: P 6,144,000.00

QUEZON CITY
Prop. 34 – Resl. Lot LA 168 sqm Lot 4-A-1 & 8 J. P. Rizal St., Manlag Minimum Bid Price: P 2,016,000.00
Prop. 35 – Comm'l./Ind'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 2,401 sqm # 114 Gen. Luis St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches Minimum Bid Price: P 16,928,000.00
Prop. 36 – Resl. Lot LA 3,138.60 sqm Lot 5 Greenmeadows Ave., Greenmeadows Subd. Brgy. Ugong Norte Minimum Bid Price: P 50,217,600.00
Prop. 37 – WITHDRAWN
Prop. 38 – WITHDRAWN

SAN JUAN
Prop. 39 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 255 sqm FA 355 sqm #26 A. Bonifacio St. Brgy. Kabayanan Minimum Bid Price: P 4,393,000.00
Prop. 40 – Comm'l. Lot LA 352 sqm Lot 3-A-1 A Mendoza St. formerly Parasol St. Minimum Bid Price: P 5,315,000.00

LUZON
BATANGAS
Prop. 41 – Resl. Lot LA 755 sqm Lot 1122 Gen. Luna St. & Atienean Rd., Brgy. Sabang, Lipa City Minimum Bid Price: P 12,080,000.00

LUZON
BATANGAS
Prop. 42 – Resl. Lot LA 110 sqm Lot 7 Blk 16 Road Lot 15, San Isidro Village, Phase 1, Brgy. San Isidro, Minimum Bid Price: P 703,000.00
Prop. 43 – Resl. Lot LA 500 sqm Lot 7 Blk 7 Palmridge Pointe, Phase 1, Brgy. Balas, Talisay Minimum Bid Price: P 936,000.00
Prop. 44 – Resl. Lot LA 386 sqm Lot 4 Blk 15 Palmridge Pointe, Phase 1, Brgy. Balas, Talisay Minimum Bid Price: P 802,880.00

BENGUET
Prop. 45 – Resl. Lot LA 969 sqm Lot 10 Ten Court St. & Leafy Lane Drive, Suello Subd., Brgy. Santo Tomas, Baguio City Minimum Bid Price: P 3,392,000.00

BULACAN
Prop. 46 – Resl. Lot LA 146 sqm Lot 1 Blk 1 Road Lot 4, Ayukil Subd., Brgy. Binang 2nd & Turo, Bocaue Minimum Bid Price: P 231,300.00
Prop. 47 – Resl. Lot LA 168 sqm Lot 6 Blk 2 along Mark St. & Lot 5 Blk 2 (existing Rd.) Metrogate Complex, Brgy. Saluysoy, Meycauayan Minimum Bid Price: P 672,000.00
Prop. 48 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 15,077 sqm Brgys. Mojon & Gunhawa, Malolos Minimum Bid Price: P 74,239,000.00
Prop. 49 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 328 sqm FA 181 sqm Lot 53 Blk 22 Road Lot 1 & A. Ricarte St. (Lot 55-alley), Brgy. Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte City Minimum Bid Price: P 799,000.00
Prop. 50 – Resl. Lot LA 2,117 sqm Lot 2260-B & Lot 2981-C-13 Along Brgy. Road, Brgy. San Roque, Pandi Minimum Bid Price: P 2,117,000.00

CAGAYAN
Prop. 51 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 4,106 sqm FA 1,860 sqm Lots 2442-A, 2442-B-2-A, 2436 & 2437-J Luna Ext., Brgy. Ugac Sur, Tuguegarao City Minimum Bid Price: P 18,504,000.00

CAMARINES SUR
Prop. 52 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 600 sqm FA 660 sqm L14 & 15 Blk 3 Soriano St., Villa Sorabella Subd., Concepcion Grande, Naga City Minimum Bid Price: P 4,590,000.00
Prop. 53
Prop. 54 – Ind'l./ Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 5,465 sqm Lot 1161 Pagdahican Road, Mabolo, Naga City Minimum Bid Price: P 9,662,000.00
Prop. 55 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 15,500 sqm FA 1,134 sqm Lot 1211-D-3-B-2-C, Lot 1211-D-3-B-2-A-8-B, Lot 1211-D-3-A, Along National Rd., Brgy. Mabolo, Naga City Minimum Bid Price: P 25,450,000.00
Prop. 56 – Comm'l. Lot LA 5,000 sqm Lot 3-B-4-C Brgy. Triangulo, Naga City Minimum Bid Price: P 16,200,000.00

CAVITE
Prop. 57 – Resl. Lot LA 160 sqm Lot 10 Blk. 15 Dona Rd., Tagaytay Country Homes Ph1, Brgy. Silang Crossing West, Tagaytay City Minimum Bid Price: P 640,000.00
Resl. Lot St., Andrew Bend St., Charbel Subd., Sampaloc, Dasmariñas
Prop. 58 – Lot 8 Blk 3 LA 158 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 442,000.00
Prop. 59 – Lot 9 Blk 3 LA 171 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 479,000.00
Resl. Lots, Governor's Dr., Macana Business Center, Brgy. Poblacion, Carmona
Prop. 60 – Lot 4 Blk 9 LA 3,324 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 21,539,663.78
Prop. 61 – Lot 5 Blk 9 LA 4,999 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 32,393,736.22
Prop. 62 – Comm'l. Lot LA 2,105 sqm L1-B Molino Rd. cor. Macana Ave., Bacoor Minimum Bid Price: P 18,793,000.00
Prop. 63 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 91 sqm FA 32 sqm L18 B4 Primerose Rd., Molino Parkhomes, Brgy. Molino, Bacoor Minimum Bid Price: P 452,000.00
Prop. 64 – Resl. Lot LA 54 sqm Lot 3 Blk 2 ACM Woodstock Homes, Ph8, Brgy. Alapan 1-A, Imus Minimum Bid Price: P 369,000.00

LAGUNA
Prop. 65 – Comm'l. Lot LA 1,039 sqm Lot 8061-D Mahanlika Highway, Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00
Prop. 66 – Comm'l. Lot LA 1,039 sqm Lot 8061-E Mahanlika Highway, Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00
Prop. 67 – Resl. Lot LA 1,851.20 sqm Lot 695-D, Lot 695-C-7, Lot 695C-2, Lot 710-E Rizal Boulevard, Brgy. Poor, Sta. Rosa Minimum Bid Price: P 3,897,000.00

ILOCOS NORTE
Prop. 68 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,010 sqm FA 807 sqm Lot 8753-A & 8753-C, Lot 8753-B Corner J.P. Rizal & P. Hernando Sts. & 26 De Agosto St., Brgy. San Guillermo (Nuestra Señora Del Rosario), Laoag City Minimum Bid Price: P 7,405,000.00

ISABELA
Prop. 69 – Ind'l. Lot LA 12,320 sqm Lot 9623-H Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Capitpiman (formerly Bo. Malasin), Cordon Minimum Bid Price: P 2,772,000.00
Prop. 70 – Resl. Lot LA 982 sqm Lot 2570 - B - 5 - A Old Provincial Rd. and NIA Rd., Brgy. Ipil, Echague Minimum Bid Price: P 786,000.00
Prop. 71 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 188 sqm FA 150 sqm Lot 9232-C-2-A Cagayan Valley Rd. & unnamed Rd., Brgy. Villasis, Santiago City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,562,000.00

LUZON
ISABELA
Prop. 72 – Resl. Lot LA 650 sqm Lot 1632-A-2 Road-Right-Of-Way, Brgy. Balas, Santiago City Minimum Bid Price: P 905,000.00
Prop. 73 – Resl. Lot LA 105 sqm Lot 34 Blk 9 Road Lot 9, Rizal Village, Brgy. Rizal, Santiago City Minimum Bid Price: P 527,000.00

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Prop. 74 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 440 sqm Lot 2 Blk 4 Brgy. Mangarin, San Jose Minimum Bid Price: P 158,000.00

NUEVA ECIJA
Prop. 75 – Agri./Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,436 sqm FA 96 sqm Lot 47-A-4-F Along road-right-of-way, Brgy. San Pascual, Talavera Minimum Bid Price: P 883,000.00
Prop. 76 – Agri./Ind'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 56,180 sqm FA 10,844 sqm Lot 128 & 130 (Tyson Poultry Farm), Brgy. Pangatian, Cabanatuan Minimum Bid Price: P 4,566,000.00

PANGASINAN
Prop. 77 – Agri. Lot LA 23,014 sqm Lots 1900, 1912, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1943, 1944, 1945 Salsay District, Brgy. Bolosan, Dagupan Minimum Bid Price: P 2,301,000.00
Prop. 78 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,045 sqm FA 988 sqm Lot 149 - C Along Alexander St. & Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Poblacion, Urdaneta City Minimum Bid Price: P 12,990,000.00
Prop. 79 – Ind'l. Lot LA 2,242 sqm Lot # 8291 Gonzales St., Brgy. Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,412,100.00

QUEZON PROVINCE
Prop. 80 – Resl. Lot LA 431 sqm Lot 30 Blk 4 Road Lot 9, Puerto del Mar Subd. Ph1, Brgy. Bocohan, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,078,000.00
Resl. Lots, Road Lot 25, Brgy. Sta. Catalina, Norte, Candelaria
Prop. 81 – Lot 6 LA 186 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 56,000.00
Prop. 82 – Lot 12 LA 186 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 56,000.00
Resl. Lots, Road Lot 40, Brgy. Sta. Catalina, Norte, Candelaria
Prop. 83 – Lot 6 LA 145 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 43,500.00
Prop. 84 – Lot 7 LA 145 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 43,500.00
Prop. 84A – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 220 sqm Lot 2 Blk 1 Brgy. Road, Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria Minimum Bid Price: P 66,000.00
Prop. 84B – Resl. Lot LA 220 sqm Lot 3 Blk 2 Brgy. Road, Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria Minimum Bid Price: P 88,000.00
Prop. 85 – Resl. Lot LA 220 sqm Lot 15 Blk 2 Along Barangay Road, Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria Minimum Bid Price: P 72,332.00
Prop. 86 – Resl. Lots LA 4,431 sqm Lot 2044 & 2045, Lot -2064-B-2-B-1 to 3 Nat'l. Road, Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 11,293,050.00
Prop. 87 – Resl. Lot LA 8,477 sqm Lot 1182-C Along Diversion Road, Brgy. Isabang, Tayabas Minimum Bid Price: P 5,148,853.00
Prop. 88 – Resl. Lot LA 8,652 sqm Lot 1183 Along Diversion Road, Brgy. Isabang, Tayabas Minimum Bid Price: P 5,255,147.00
Prop. 89 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 75 sqm FA 47 sqm Lot 3-H-1 Rosemarie Comp. Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 180,000.00
Prop. 90 – Resl. Lot LA 250 sqm L1 Blk 2 Brgy. Gulang-gulang, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 520,000.00
Prop. 91 – Resl. Lot LA 180 sqm L17 Blk 3 Brgy. Gulang-gulang, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 360,000.00
Prop. 92 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 480 sqm FA 592 sqm # 591 (Lot 2 & 3 Blk. 11) Purok Matahimik, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,668,000.00
Prop. 93 – Comm'l. Lot LA 5,074 sqm Lots 2305-B & 2300-A-1-F, Quezon Ave., Brgy. 8, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 14,685,000.00
Prop. 94 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,508 sqm Lot 2 Nat'l. Rd., Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,265,000.00
Prop. 95 – Resl. Lot LA 150 sqm Lot 25 Blk 1 Sitio Bagong Pook, Brgy. Lagalag, Tiaong Minimum Bid Price: P 30,000.00
Prop. 96 – Resl. Lot LA 150 sqm Lot 26 Blk 1 Sitio Bagong Pook, Brgy. Lagalag, Tiaong Minimum Bid Price: P 30,000.00
Prop. 97 – Resl. Lot LA 258 sqm Lot 2 Blk 2 Corner of Rd. Lot 1 & Rd. Lot 2, Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria Minimum Bid Price: P 75,401.00
Prop. 98 – Resl. Lot LA 261 sqm Lot 17 Blk 2 Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria Minimum Bid Price: P 88,400.00

RIZAL
Prop. 99 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 88 sqm FA 72 sqm No. 355, Sicily St., Hills of Malaya Alta, Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 858,000.00
Resl. Lot Village East III, Brgy. Darangan, Binangonan
Prop. 100 – Lot 9 Blk 84 LA 204 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 293,400.00
Prop. 101 – Lot 10 Blk 84 LA 204 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 293,400.00
Prop. 102 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 143 sqm FA 233.50 sqm No. 103 Kamagong St., Madera Subd., Brgy. San Andres, Cainta Minimum Bid Price: P 1,069,000.00

LUZON
RIZAL
Prop. 103 – Resl. Lot LA 346 sqm Lot 19 Block 2 Birchwood St. Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,051,840.00
Prop. 104 – Resl. Lot LA 459 sqm Lot 27 Block 4 Pearlwood St. Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,395,360.00
Prop. 105 – Resl. Lot LA 413 sqm L19 Block 5 Pennwood St. Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,255,520.00
Resl. Lot, San Ramo St., Hills of Mala Alta, Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City
Prop. 106 – Lot 66 Blk 9 LA 326 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 912,800.00
Prop. 107 – Lot 75 Blk 9 LA 173 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 484,400.00
Prop. 108 – Lot 83 Blk 9 LA 313 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 876,400.00
Prop. 109 – Lot 84 Blk 9 LA 357 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 999,600.00
Resl. Lots, Brgy. Rd., Brgy. May-iba, Teresa
Prop. 110 – Lot 4790-B-4 LA 1,004 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 831,504.26
Prop. 111 – Lot 4790-B-5-A LA 188 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 155,700.00
Prop. 112 – Lot 4790-B-5-B LA 312 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 258,395.74
Prop. 113 – Resl. Lot LA 834 sqm Lot 5 Blk 2 Salford St., Town & Country Estates, Brgy. Dela Paz, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 2,282,400.00
Prop. 114 – Agri. Lot LA 44,226 sqm Sitio Pinagbarilan (Sepak Maly), Brgy. Wawa, Rodriguez (Montalban) Minimum Bid Price: P 442,000.00

SAN PABLO CITY
Prop. 115 – Resl. Lot LA 1,982 sqm Lot 3-A-1 Conrado St. Marino Subd., Brgy. San Lucas, San Pablo City Minimum Bid Price: P 2,789,000.00

SORSOGON
Prop. 116 – Resl. Lot LA 549 sqm Lot 2046 Brgy. Bibincahan, Sorsogon City Minimum Bid Price: P 82,000.00

TARLAC
Prop. 117 – Ind'l. Lot LA 18,432 sqm Lot 1-B Romulo Highway, Brgy. San Juan de Mata & Dolores Minimum Bid Price: P 4,147,000.00
Prop. 118 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 712 sqm FA 637 sqm # 114 Rose St., Villa Solman Subd., Brgy. Salapungan Minimum Bid Price: P 2,416,550.00

VISAYAS
AKLAN
Prop. 119 – Resl. Lot LA 6,058 sqm Along National Rd. & Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Caticlan, Malay Minimum Bid Price: P 10,507,500.00
Prop. 120 – Comm'l./ Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 460.50 sqm FA 120 sqm Lot 3460-F-1-A Roxas Ave. Ext., Andagao, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 4,758,000.00
Prop. 121 – Comm'l. Lot LA 287 sqm Along Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Caticlan Proper, Malay Minimum Bid Price: P 2,286,000.00
Prop. 122 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 549 sqm FA 888 sqm Lot 26-D & E Rizal St., Poblacion, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 5,228,350.00
Prop. 123 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 187 sqm FA 150 sqm Lot 3460-E-7-B, road-right-of-way, Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 2,596,000.00
Prop. 124 – Resl. Lot LA 777 sqm Lot 3069-A, Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 622,000.00
Prop. 125 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 500 sqm FA 956 sqm Lot 5-A-4-B-1 (Queen's Inn Hotel), Macadam Rd., Brgy. New Buswang, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 10,504,000.00
Prop. 126 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 649 sqm FA 575 sqm Lot 3611 & 3612 cor. Maming St. (Nat'l Rd.) & Brgy. Road, Brgy. Caticlan, Malay, Minimum Bid Price: P 4,343,500.00
Prop. 127 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,518 sqm FA 460 sqm Lot 2 Cipriano St., Brgy. Estancia, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 3,034,500.00
Prop. 128 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 547 sqm Lot 1107-C Nat'l. Highway (Osmeña Ave.), Brgy. Estancia, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 2,268,000.00
Prop. 129 – Agro-Resl. Lot LA 4,688 sqm Lot 3776 interior of Brgy. Caticlan, Malay Minimum Bid Price: P 1,124,800.00
Prop. 130 – Resl. Lot LA 271 sqm L10 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill., Brgy. New Buswang Minimum Bid Price: P 271,000.00
Prop. 131 – Resl. Lot LA 277 sqm L11 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill., Brgy. New Buswang Minimum Bid Price: P 277,000.00

CAPIZ
Prop. 132 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,500 sqm Lot 1865-A – 1 Along Nat'l. Rd. (Roxas Ave.) Km. 1, Brgy. Lawaan, Roxas City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,034,000.00
Resl. Lots, Bo. Andres Bonifacio, Roxas City
Prop. 133 – Lot 956-B-2-D LA 105 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 52,619.85
Prop. 134 – Lot 956-B-2-E LA 204 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 55,048.45
Prop. 135 – Lot 956-B-2-F LA 273 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 73,667.78
Prop. 136 – Lot 956-B-2-G LA 273 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 73,667.78
Prop. 137 – Lot 956-B-2-H LA 219 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 59,096.13

ILOILO
Prop. 138 – WITHDRAWN

VISAYAS
ILOILO
Prop. 139 – Resl./ Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 761 sqm FA 771 sqm Lot 6-A & Lot 5 Blk 1 Jaro-Leganes Prov. Rd., Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro Minimum Bid Price: P 8,254,800.00
Prop. 140 – Resl. Lot LA 5,536 sqm Lot 934-B -3 Molo-Arevalo Blvd., Brgy. Sto. Niño Sur, Arevalo Minimum Bid Price: P 4,136,400.00
Prop. 141 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,785 sqm FA 831 sqm Lot 159-B Jocson St. (formerly San Jose St.) Brgy. San Jose, Arevalo Minimum Bid Price: P 10,164,600.00
Prop. 142 – Resl. Lot LA 13,144 sqm Lot 4255 Along Old Provincial Road, Poblacion Ilawod, Calinog Minimum Bid Price: P 1,972,000.00
Prop. 143 – Resl. Lot LA 6,521 sqm Lot 1432-A-5-1-A-3-E Along Rizal St., Brgy. Poblacion Itaya, Calinog Minimum Bid Price: P 1,926,000.00

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Resl. Lots, Street Lot 6 & Alley 3, Purok Magbanlugay, Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City
Prop. 144 – Lot 9 Blk 21 LA 651 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 325,500.00
Prop. 145 – Lot 10 Blk 21 LA 651 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 325,500.00
Prop. 146 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 997 sqm FA 250 sqm Lot 1 Blk 10 cor. Kametal Drive & unnamed Subd. Rd., Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,932,050.00
Prop. 147 – Comm'l. Lot LA 600 sqm Lot 4-A along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy. Singcang-Airport, Bacolod City Minimum Bid Price: P 4,500,000.00
Prop. 148 – Comm'l. Lot LA 730 sqm Lot 4-B along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy. Singcang-Airport, Bacolod City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,475,000.00
Prop. 149 – Agri. Lot LA 45,282 sqm 2138-D Along Hacienda Road, Brgy. Ayungon, Bago City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,358,000.00
Prop. 150 – Comm'l. Lot LA 775 sqm Lot 61-B Along Rizal and Magallanes Sts., Brgy. 4, Zone III, Hinigaran Minimum Bid Price: P 1,550,000.00

MINDANAO
BUKIDNON
Agri. Lots, Along Road Lot 249-K, Purok 12 (formerly Purok 1), Brgy. Lumbo, Valencia City
Prop. 151 – Lot 249-A LA 2,401 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 288,135.00
Prop. 152 – Lot 249-E LA 969 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 93,029.00
Prop. 153 – Lot 249-C LA 969 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 93,029.00
Prop. 154 – Lot 249 – D LA 2,691 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 208,235.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Prop. 155 – Agri. Lot LA 228,563 sqm Lot 21406 Within Sitio Upper Dolawa, Brgy. Lumbia, Cagayan De Oro City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,714,000.00

COTABATO
Resl. Lots, Arteda Subd., Zone I, Koronadal City
Prop. 156 – Lot 20-A-7 LA 500 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 200,000.00
Prop. 157 – Lot 20-A-8 LA 500 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 200,000.00

DAVAO CITY
Prop. 158 – Comm'l. Lot LA 7,977 sqm Lot F-2 Lot 1180-C, Lot 1180-D J.P. Laurel Ave. & V. Mapa St., San Roque Minimum Bid Price: P 119,655,000.00
Comm'l. Lots, 8th Ave. & Soliman & Leon Garcia Sts., Brgy. Agdao
Prop. 159 – Lot 2-B LA 916 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 160 – Lot 2-C LA 916 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 161 – Lot 2-D-1 LA 450 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 3,600,000.00
Prop. 162 – Lot 2-D-2-B LA 5,899 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 47,192,000.00
Prop. 163 – Lot 2-D-2-A LA 2,738 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 21,904,000.00

MISAMIS ORIENTAL
Prop. 164 – Resl. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,694 sqm Lot 6390 Along National Highway, Iponan, Brgy. Barra, Opol Minimum Bid Price: P 4,676,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES
METRO MANILA
Prop. – WITHDRAWN sqm Lot Min

LUZON
BULACAN
Prop. 166 – Resl. w/ Improvement LA 2,611 sqm FA 1,319.04 sqm Lot 3 & Lot 4453-L to N, Brgy. Bagbaguin, Sta. Maria Minimum Bid Price: P 14,148,000.00

CAMARINES SUR
Prop. 167 – Resl. Lot LA 3,376 sqm Lot 318 Calauag St., Bo. Lerma, Naga City Minimum Bid Price: P 4,860,000.00

LAGUNA
Prop. 168 – Resl. Lot LA 419 sqm L11 Blk 1 Himalayas St., Fairwest South Peak 2 Brgy. San Antonio, San Pedro Minimum Bid Price: P 1,860,000.00

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Prop. 169 – Agri. Lot LA 41,163 sqm Lot 1204 Sitio Nyayos 2, Brgy. New Dagupan, Calintaan Minimum Bid Price: P 468,000.00
Agri. Lots, Sitio Tulasong, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sablayan
Prop. 170 – Lot 1941 LA 600 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00
Prop. 171 – Lot 1942 LA 600 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00
Prop. 172 – Lot 1943 LA 600 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00

RIZAL
Prop. 173 – Resl. Lot LA 1,135 sqm L4 Blk 7-A Birmingham & Clifton Sts., Town & Country Estates, Mayamot, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 4,224,000.00
Prop. 174 – Resl. Lot LA 610 sqm 3 Blk 8 Rd. Lot 18 Montevista Heights, Dolores, Taytay Minimum Bid Price: P 1,317,600.00
Prop. 175 – Agri. Lot LA 46,989 sqm Lot 1 Brgy. San Jose, Baras Minimum Bid Price: P 3,382,800.00
Prop. 176 – Agri. Lot LA 5,551 sqm Lot 1-C Sitio Maynpay, Brgy. San Salvador, Baras Minimum Bid Price: P 396,000.00

SHOW MONEY P25,000.00 ~ Per Property
AUCTION MANAGER CENTURY PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT, INC.
MALU: (0915)789-0650, MUFFET:(0915)412-5196, SOL:(0910)306-7444
HOTLINE NUMBERS:
(02)819-7377; (02)819-7241 loc 8290

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UCPB

Tribal body urges Army to help find 2 abducted Aetas

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Officials of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on Monday asked Army officials to help find two Aetas who were abducted by 30 armed men in the uplands of Capas, Tarlac, on Sept. 18.

PHILIPPINE Marines fix a 105 Howitzer during an annual inspection of the Marines camp parade ground in Fort Bonifacio. EDWIN BACASMAS

Salong Sunggod, director of the NCIP in Central Luzon, said Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, reported that the report on the abduction of cousins Nicolas Sanchez and Heherson Medina has not reached his office.

"[Gomez] gave me the approval to directly coordinate with the field commanders," said Sunggod, who met with Gomez at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

In a phone interview, Sunggod said the problem has also been raised to officials of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

"There has been no result," he said.

He said the two-week search took a downturn when an important witness stopped cooperating with the police out of fear.

That witness claimed to have seen the truck that the abductors used when they took Sanchez and Medina to Sitio Cabatuan in Barangay Bueno in Capas.

The witness' description of that truck and the truck seen at the compound of the 71st Infantry Battalion in Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac City "almost matched," according to a report by Dante Curading, chief of the NCIP service center in Barangay Dapdap in Bamban town, to the regional NCIP office.

Sunggod said Sanchez and Medina were civilians and were not members of leftist groups or communist armies.

In affidavits to the police, their wives said the two men went out on the night of Sept. 17 to catch frogs for food the next day.

By 1 a.m. on Sept. 18, they said they heard a succession of shots fired not too far from their houses. Then, they heard voices groaning in pain.

Five witnesses, who signed their affidavits on Sept. 20, claimed having separately seen 30 to 50 armed men walking in various spots from Barangay Bueno from 3 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. They wore camouflage uniforms and combat boots, and carried rifles.

The armed men, according to the witnesses, ordered them to face the ground, look away or walk the opposite way.

The sixth witness, whose affidavit was signed on Sept. 19, claimed seeing armed men in Barangay O' Donnell at about 5 p.m. on Sept. 18. He said these men identified themselves as New People's Army rebels.

Lt. Col. Gregory Cayetano, commander of the 71st IB, promised to check on the after-operations reports of his units, including that of the 72nd recon

Hut a showcase of simple Macapagal life

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

LUBAO, PAMPANGA—A BAMBOO hut covered by a thatched nipa roof in San Nicolas I here reflects the best traits of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, a reminder of victory over poverty and honesty amid political power, said his daughter, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado.

"*Tatay* (Father) never changed," Salgado told the INQUIRER as her father, if alive, would have turned 96 years old on Thursday.

"That hut, although a replica of where he was born and raised, tells you how simple and humble his beginnings were and how simple he was to the end," said Salgado, Macapagal's eldest daughter by the late Purita de la Rosa.

In her opinion, the hut outshines all the other structures named after her father, called the "Poor Boy from Lubao."

These include the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, the provincial hospital in Pampanga and a road in Metro Manila that was mired in controversy over allegations it was overpriced.

The Macapagal family was actually a squatter on the 695-square meter lot on which the hut was built. The lot was later bought by the friends of Macapagal as a gift to him.

Contributions

Salgado said the Department of Education in Central Luzon rebuilt the hut in 1998 in memory of Macapagal, who died on April 21, 1997.

The Macapagal children—Salgado and her brother Arthur, and Ms Arroyo and her brother Diosdado Jr. (Macapagal's children by his second wife, the late Doña Eva Macaraeg-Macapagal) pitched in P20,000 each for the construction.

They offered to donate to the government the less than 25-square meter hut, including the lot and the 100-square meter house that Salgado built and used while she was vice governor of Pampanga.

The National Historical Commission, Salgado said, turned down the donations, citing lack of funds to maintain it.

She said the Macapagal family had not given up on the project to turn the property into a museum.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., son of the late President Ramon Magsaysay from Zambales, gave P1 million from his pork barrel to build a museum annex.

The hut is practically bare, its fixtures made up of only a crucifix, a water pot made of clay and a *dulang* (a table that's barely a little high from the floor).

"The crucifix is the central thing. Through it, Apong Dadong's mother (Urbana Pangan) led her son in prayers," Salgado recalled of those rites, as told by her father.

Not poor in death

The late President did not actually die poor. According to Salgado, her father managed to buy a 580-square meter land from his income from law practice.

The land is located in Barangay San Juan, some 200 meters from the San Nicolas property.

> 'The Macapagal family was actually a squatter. . .'

Salgado said the family, including her stepmother, Doña Eva, got to learn of the land only in 1988 when Macapagal gave it to her that year.

She said it was her father's way of helping her prove that the Macapagals are really from Lubao, noting that it was an issue raised against her when she ran for public office.

Macapagal, she said, never got to use the San Juan land because "he did not have the heart to evict the old man who squatted on that property."

No eviction

Up to his presidency and whenever he was in Lubao, Macapagal lived in the house of his cousin, Anong Tiongco.

Salgado said she did not also have the heart to evict the man who occupied their property. The man died a few years after Macapagal died. The land has not yet been reclaimed from the man's family, she said.

This belatedly known facet of Macapagal's life joined the many stories of his simplicity and humility, traits that Archbishop Paciano Aniceto extolled during Thursday's thanksgiving Mass.

These, according to Aniceto, are "traits that those in public service should emulate."

Ms Arroyo on Thursday joined her relatives here and from Cabanatuan City in inaugurating the museum.

Strictly restricted to relatives, the event went largely uncovered by the media and without the usual throng of local politicians.

"It was one of the rare family events that she came without many politicians," Salgado said.

Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepomuceno volunteered to give funds for the maintenance of the museum.

Salgado said Macapagal's books are kept in the museum, as well as the family's photographs, Doña Eva's wooden *aparador* (closet) and his favorite armchair.

"We are going to fill it with his memorabilia. We hope it would inspire young people, especially those poor, to try make it succeed in life despite poverty," Salgado said.

THE REPLICA of the nipa hut where the late President Diosdado Macapagal, father of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, grew up. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cassava seen cause of kids' poisoning

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—SEVEN MInors are now being treated at the municipal hospital in Cauayan town, 119.9 km south of here, for alleged food poisoning after eating the skin of a carabao and boiled cassava, the police said.

Insp. Louie Figueroa, Cauayan police chief, identified the victims as Danny Mahusay, 13; his sisters—Grace, 12, Kristine, 9, Rogine 7 and brothers Ross, 6, Rodito Jr., 3, and Ronald, 1.

The seven children of farmer Rodito Mahusay Sr., a resident of Barangay Baclao, Cauayan, were rushed to the hospital Thursday last week after complaining of severe stomachache, Figueroa said.

Provincial Health Officer Luisa Efren cautioned the public against eating cassava at this time.

She said the change in climate could render cassava at this time unsafe to eat as the root crop has cyanide content.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of **One (1) Lot Cooling System for the Oriental Negros Convention Hall, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City (ABC: 20,000,000.00).**

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with Tel./Fax #: (035) 422-8895.

The **Pre-Bid Conference** is scheduled on **October 12, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City while the **submission and opening of bids** is scheduled on **October 24, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI – October 3 & 10, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
YUKOH ENTERPRISES INC. L.T. Sy Compound 2308-A Taft Avenue Ext. Pasay City	Yuko Komiya	Vice President/ Technical Consultant
BANGKOK BANK PUBLIC COMPANY, LTD. 10/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Varot Samakoses	Administrative Officer & Manager of Control and Budget Dept.
HANMADANG KOREAN RESTAURANT 636 San Andres St., Malate, Manila	Yong Ho Kim	Manager
HANARO ENGLISH, INC. 3/F Keystone Building, 220 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Dongsu Hong	President
DHL DANZAS AIR & OCEAN (PHILIPPINES), INC. DHL Danzas Building, Sta. Agueda Paranaque City	Richard Strollo	President and CEO (Country Manager)
EAGLES FORTUNE INC. 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Yongna Cai	General Manager
EAGLES FORTUNE INC. 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Chunyin Shi	Consultant
EAGLES FORTUNE INC. 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Rongwei Cai	Assistant Manager
LINKTONE INTERNATIONAL MINING CORP. Unit 2A, Trafalgar Plaza Bldg., 105 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Bo Zhao	Chief Finance Officer
HITACHI AIR CONDITIONING PRODUCTS (PHILS.) INC, 22 G. Araneta Ave. Brgy. Sto. Domingo SFDM, Quezon City	Wen-Yi Cheng	General Manager
UNOCAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 14/F 6750 Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jens Ravnholt Pedersen	Manager, Resource Technology
GLAMOUR PLUS NAIL ART & FACIAL SERVICE CO. Unit 202 2/F Josefa Building 1750 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Demei Lu	Technician Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI Oct 3, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Email: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit Vacuum Can Double Seamer

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P2,081,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of one (1) unit Vacuum Can Double Seamer*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of one (1) unit Vacuum Can Double Seamer*. Delivery is required within 60 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 23, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 7, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount In Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 7, 2006 at 9.00 a.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity · *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person · *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address · *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No. · *(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address · *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website · *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI Oct 3 & 10 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel No. (632) 455-2758 Email: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of various Laboratory Equipment

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P4,815,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of various Laboratory and Power Plant Equipment*, as follows

Item No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	ATP Luminometer with Accessory	1	200,000.00
2	Capillary Gas Chromatograph and Accessories	1	2,000,000.00
3	Rapid Soxhlet Fat Extractor	1	1,000,000.00
4	Portable Ductless Fumehood	1	345,000.00
5	Continuous-Feed Grinding Drive and Head	1	258,000.00
6	Stainless Steel Digital Top Loading Balance	5	375,000.00
7	Micropipettors, 500-2500ul, 2 ul increments	4	160,000.00
8	Multichannel pipettor	1	75,000.00
9	Chlorine Test Kit with DPD Reagent	1	25,000.00
10	Chlorine Meter	1	60,000.00
11	Light Meter	1	15,000.00
12	Type T Handheld Thermocouple Thermometer	2	50,000.00
13	General Purpose Steel Reversible Tray Cart	1	22,000.00
14	Digital Refractometer	1	35,000.00
15	Label Printer	1	35,000.00
16	Four-in-One Stirring Hot Plate	1	125,000.00
17	Magnetic Hot Plate Stirrer	1	35,000.00
	TOTAL		4,815,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of various Laboratory and Power Plant Equipment*. Delivery is required within 60 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P7,500.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 23, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 7, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount In Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 7, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair for Administration and General Support Services

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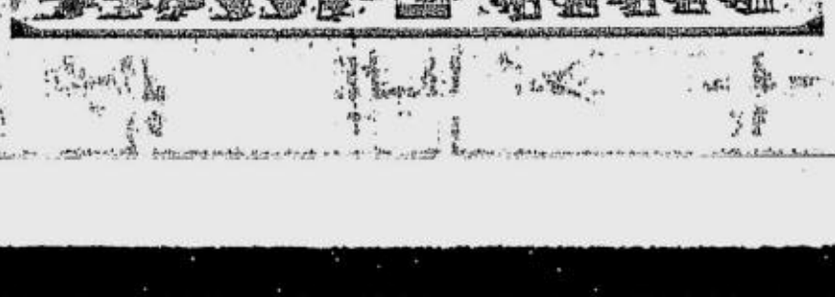

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Laguna Lake fish stocks wiped out

Majority of fish pens, cages destroyed by Typhoon 'Milenyo'

By Blanche S. Rivera

GOOD NEWS FOR THE POOR; BAD news for investors.

Up to 97 percent of fish stocks at Laguna Lake can now be caught by just anyone after Typhoon "Milenyo" destroyed most of the cages and pens in the lake.

The Laguna Lake Development (LLDA) Authority estimated that Milenyo wiped out 95 percent of fish cages and 80 percent of fish pens in the area.

"Definitely, everything was destroyed. Most were completely wiped out and a number were damaged so badly the operators would have to rebuild their structures," LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III said in a phone interview.

He said the LLDA was still assessing the economic cost of the damage wrought by the typhoon although this, he added, could easily run up to millions of pesos.

Bangus, *tilapia* and bighead carp are now being sold in markets surrounding the lake, selling at P10 to P15 per kilo. Some are even being given away free, Ynares said.

"We may allow staggered payment of fish pen and fish cage fees to allow operators to cope with losses and expenses," he added.

The 90,000-hectare Laguna Lake, the biggest inland body of water in the Philippines, has been described by experts as "extremely stressed" due to too much fish pens and fish cages.

The LLDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have launched a campaign to demolish illegal structures in the lake.

The planned demolition, however, was called off after Milenyo slashed through Metro Manila and its peripheral cities, striking down anything in its path, including trees, billboards and other structures.

Ynares said the natural clearing of the bay would allow the LLDA to strictly enforce the law and monitor operators that would build structures on the lake.

He said the operators would have to secure a clearance first from the agency to repair or rebuild their fish pens and cages.

"We can regulate now because many of them have delinquent accounts. There are operators with violations so we'll use this to collect their obligations to the LLDA," Ynares told the INQUIRER.

THIS WAY TO A DRINK A long line of water containers elicits a smile from motorists traveling on Road 10 in Navotas. Residents in the area, however, are not amused as they have been trying to cope with the lack of water since Typhoon "Milenyo" passed through the metropolis.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Car showroom in QC robbed

By DJ Yap

ROBBERS BROKE INTO A CAR SHOWroom in Quezon City after midnight yesterday, carting away up to P300,000 in cash.

Police said seven armed men entered the Toyota Commonwealth Avenue branch at about 1:40 a.m.

At gunpoint, the men disarmed security guard Clemen Anesito, tied his hands and legs, and herded him toward a toilet, police added.

The suspects then grabbed the keys from Anesito, entered the showroom, and took around P300,000 from the cashier's booth, according to a report of Supt. Julius Abanes, commander of the Batasan Hills police station.

Anesito told police that their service firearms, a .38-caliber revolver and a shotgun, as well as a Nokia 3210 cell phone, were also taken by the suspects.

A shotgun with some ammunition, however, was left behind, police said.

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Six men slain in Caloocan not criminals, say kin

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE RELATIVES OF SIX MEN, whose bodies were found beside a road in Caloocan City on Sunday, said yesterday that their kin were not criminals.

An autopsy report, meanwhile, said that the slain men bore torture marks.

The victims were workers of Ken Dragon Corp., a smelting firm in Meycauayan, Bulacan. They were identified as Ramon Villanueva, 37; Arthur Cadorna, 26; Alfredo Asuero, 26; Jefferson Agripinan, 19; Remy Ponteros, 22 and Junrel Menuiso, 22.

Their bullet-riddled bodies were found beside a road in Phase 3 of the Nova Romania Subdivision in Barangay 168, Caloocan.

A witness who saw the shooting said one the victims tried to run away but was chased by a man who shot him with a long firearm.

Except for Villanueva, the rest of the victims were live-in workers of the factory, the brother of one of the victims, Teodolfo Villanueva, said.

"We were told the group just brought Ramon to the tricycle terminal when a jeep full of armed men arrived in the area and told them to board it," Teodolfo told the INQUIRER.

"They were just plain factory workers who, after a week's work, decided to drink a little after receiving their salary," Melinda Agripinan, the wife of Jefferson, said.

Melinda, whose brother Alfredo was also among those killed, said she hoped the names of her relatives would be cleared after they were portrayed by some reports as criminals.

"They were not criminals. They were just mistaken for somebody else," she added.

Keep houses clean, Rizal residents asked

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HEALTH OFFICIALS IN THE mountainous province of Rizal yesterday asked residents to start cleaning their houses and surroundings to avoid another ballooning in the number of dengue cases.

The strong wind and the heavy rain Typhoon "Milenyo" had unleashed could have killed dengue-carrying mosquitoes and blew away existing breeding grounds. But inside damaged houses, the accumulated stagnant water could soon turn into new areas for breeding, provincial health officer Iluminado Victoria told the INQUIRER.

While waiting for water supply to go back to normal in their areas, residents should make sure that their water containers are sealed, provincial dengue and malaria coordinator Alberto Piñon added.

He said that stored clear water was also a possible breeding site for dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

Piñon reported that there have been 111 new dengue cases and six related deaths in the last six days in Rizal.

The figures were slightly higher than the 98 cases reported in the previous week, bringing the total number of dengue cases reported in the province to 1,204 so far this year.

The biggest number of cases were still in Antipolo City, where 36 new dengue cases were reported in the past six days, while 18 new cases were reported in Taytay, Piñon added.

"We are expecting a lower number of cases this week (because of the typhoon). But we are not letting up on our information and cleanup campaigns," Victoria said.

Nursing board passers slam GMA decision on test retake

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Christine O. Avendaño

MORE THAN 200 NURSING GRADUATES who passed the tainted June examinations yesterday held a rally in front of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in Manila to protest President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for a partial retake of the test.

"We are disappointed with the sudden turnaround of the President," Renato Aquino, who spoke in behalf of the board passers, said in an interview with reporters.

Aquino, a graduate of Family Clinic Colleges in Manila, said Ms Arroyo had declared a no retake policy on the examinations on Aug. 27 and Aug. 28.

"We wonder what pushed her to change her mind and decide on the retake without even consulting the PRC and the students," he added.

Aquino stressed that the order had preempted the pending decision of the Court of Appeals (CA) on the issue.

"We are all for the prosecution of those responsible for the leakage, but we passed the exams fair and square and should not be made to suffer," he said.

Job offers

According to him, many of the board passers have undergone training programs and are preparing to work abroad.

"Many recruiting and staffing agencies have been approaching us to offer us jobs," he said.

Aquino added that nursing graduates in Zamboanga, Cebu, Baguio, Bacolod and Bohol also held simultaneous rallies to protest the retake order.

Commission on Filipinos Overseas chair Dante Ang had earlier declared that Ms Arroyo's order stays, despite the pending case at the CA.

Ang made the statement as Malacañang appeared to backtrack on the President's decision for a retake of the June exam, which was tainted by allegations that the test questions were leaked beforehand.

This was after Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang was not taking final action until the CA resolved various petitions pushing for a reexamination.

But yesterday, Ermita said the President would be issuing within a few days an executive order that would state whether or not there would a retake, as well as the "rationale" for her decision.

"We will know whether there will be a retake or not ... If there is a retake, it will include the coverage of the exam and if there is no retake, the reason for it," he told reporters.

NURSING graduates stage a protest in front of the Professional Regulation Commission office in Manila to show their opposition to a retake of the June nursing board exam. RYAN LIM

SORTING OUT THE TRASH EDWIN BACASMAS
A woman picks out recyclable materials from the garbage that was washed into Manila Bay by Typhoon "Milenyo."

MMDA wants to turn uprooted trees into art

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FROM DEVASTATION SHALL come beautiful things.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has launched a nationwide art competition that would encourage people to turn the trees uprooted by Typhoon "Milenyo" into works of art.

Dubbed "Disenyo Milenyo," the MMDA Public Affairs Service (PAS) said the contest was conceptualized during the agency's weekly public service program "MMDA sa GMA," which airs every Sunday over dzBB radio.

Anyone interested in making art out of the barks or branches of felled trees may bring their creations to the People Power Monument in Quezon City in two weeks' time for the judging, the PAS said.

The agency, however, has yet to finalize the mechanics of the art contest, as well as the prizes at stake.

Thousands of trees were uprooted all over the country when Milenyo tore through Luzon on Thursday. As soon as the storm left, the MMDA and local governments mobilized their clearing crew for the massive cleanup of Metro Manila, where trees had toppled onto major roads.

METROBRIEFS

Man rescued

FOR ALMOST five hours, 28-year-old tricycle driver Michael Venzon stood on top of a giant billboard in Pasig City, keeping police and rescue officials busy. He was rescued unharmed early yesterday morning and brought to the Pasig City Police, where he is now detained. PO2 Jovi Tuddao of the Barangay Dela Paz Community Precinct saw Venzon on top of the billboard on Marcos Highway corner Mariano Avenue shortly before Sunday midnight. He was shouting and walking back and forth, police added. Rescue officials from Pasig and Makati later persuaded him to come down.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Health symposium

THE ASIAN Institute of Management (AIM) will hold a multi-stakeholder health policy symposium titled "Determinants of Health: A Public Policy Perspective," on Oct. 6. The symposium, set from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SGV Hall, AIM conference center in Legaspi Village, Makati City, aims to contribute to the policy discussion on access and availability of quality health care. It will also review issues on health service delivery and financing and identify potentially useful policy options. AIM has invited government policy makers and representatives from relevant government agencies, the health industry and academe to attend the event. For inquiries, please call 8924011 loc. 364 or email healthpolicy@aim.edu.

SPD appoints new Makati police chief

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MAKATI CITY, THE COUNTRY'S central financial district, has a new police chief.

Supt. Gilbert Cruz, former Cainta, Rizal police head, took over the helm of the Makati Police Station yesterday, replacing Supt. Felipe Napoles as officer in charge.

Cruz was appointed through Special Order 06-489—issued by the Southern Police District—which made him the OIC until a new police chief has been designated by the Philippine National Police.

After the turnover, Cruz held his first command conference with station officials and precinct commanders.

"He just encouraged us to work, because he is a performer. He did not mention any changes in assignments. He also asked what problems the PCP (Police Community Precinct) had," said an official who attended the meeting.

Cruz is the second OIC to take charge of the Makati Police Station since the former police chief, Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio, went on emergency leave in July. Valerio was later designated as OIC of the Pasay Police Station.

DID YOU KNOW

THE CITY of Manila renamed Azcarraga Street to C.M. Recto Avenue in February 1961, several months after nationalist Sen. Claro M. Recto's death on Oct. 2, 1960.

Recto, born in 1890 in Tayabas (now Quezon province), was a lawyer who was elected Batangas representative in 1919. In 1931, he became a senator, serving as minority floor leader, majority floor leader and president pro-tempore. After four years, he was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court. He was also chosen as president of the assembly that drafted the 1935 Philippine Constitution. Recto eventually returned to the Senate in 1941, 1949 and 1955. One of his grandsons, Ralph Recto, is currently a member of the Philippine Senate. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Davao Insular Hotel, an old glory

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

WHENEVER I GO VISITING IN Davao City, the city of my birth, I always check in at Davao Insular Hotel, now called the Waterfront Insular hotel.

What's in a name, anyway? Shakespeare said that a rose by any other name smells just as sweet.

But Insular is Insular no matter what it's called now. The name evokes memories of things past when it was one of the best resort hotels in Asia.

Davao Insular, built in the early 1960s, was a tourist attraction by itself. One's visit to Davao City was not complete without a look-see at the hotel premises that boast of a beach where guests could take a dip in waters of Davao Gulf.

From the Insular beach, one can see Samal island just 30 minutes away by motorized banca. Back in the 1960s, when five-star resort hotels, like Mactan's Shangri-La, were decades away from birth, Insular stood out as probably the first first-class resort hotel in the country and even in Southeast Asia.

That reputation is no more. Like a former beauty queen, Insular has lost its old beauty and splendor. But unlike an old lady, its beauty can be restored if only its new owner, former President Erap crony William Gatchalian, will spend for its renovation and upkeep.

Gatchalian bought the hotel from the Ayalas who apparently thought that running the Makati commercial district was more important than maintaining an old hotel.

I don't know why most Chinese-Filipinos who own big hotels don't have aesthetic sense. Take a look at Manila Hotel, the Grand Old Dame with a proud history, which has been turned into an old Chinese hag. Manila Hotel now could well have been located in Binondo. Emilio Yap has given Manila Hotel a Chinese flavor, as in *champoy*.

Gatchalian's Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City looks like a museum with cheap paintings on its walls. The guys who did those paintings were probably the same "artists" who did decorative paintings on the ubiquitous jeepneys.

And so it is with Waterfront Insular Hotel that he now owns. But Insular is different from Waterfront-Cebu in that it needs a new coat of paint. Davao Insular needs a complete face-lift to recapture its old beauty.

One of the attractions at Insular—which is not found in other resort hotels—is the sight of *mananggete*—a coconut tree climber—harvesting tuba (coconut wine) from the tree. There are dozens of coconut trees on the Insular premises.

I was with my brother-in-law, Vernon Balderston, at the Insular swimming pool when I asked a *mananggete* who just came down from a tree to pour us tuba. Vernon, who's a teetotaler, liked the sweet taste of tuba.

To Vernon, an American from Nevada, who's traveled to many parts of the world, the sight of a *mananggete* deftly climbing a coconut tree and harvesting tuba was an unforgettable experience.

But the hotel's other amenities leave much to be desired. The rooms at Insular are clean all right—as clean as any room in a Pasig motel. But the bowls in the toilet sometimes don't flush. And the room fridge is just mere decoration; it is empty.

Although the Insular employees are as courteous as—or even more courteous than—any five-star hotel in Manila, their service is quite inadequate. The room boys have to be asked for drinking water.

Why am I so concerned about Waterfront Insular when its owner, Gatchalian, does not give a hoot?

Because although Gatchalian bought Insular, he doesn't own it since it has become Davao's patrimony much like Manila Hotel is national patrimony.

The mention of Insular once brought pride to the hearts of Davaoeños like me. Just like Manila Hotel was once the country's pride.

FBI probes sex scandal involving congressman

PHOTO taken Nov. 17, 1995, shows President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky at the White House. After the resignation of Foley, others recall those caught in unsavory behavior have had mixed success trying to hang on. President Clinton used contrition, counterattack and an artful definition of what constitutes sex in his ultimately successful defense against impeachment. AP

WASHINGTON—A SCANDAL over a US Republican congressman sending sexually explicit e-mails to underage boys ratcheted up on Sunday with the FBI and a congressional ethics committee looking into the accusations.

The scandal has plenty of political implications for President George W. Bush's Republicans in the November elections, as it puts in jeopardy another Republican seat in the House of Representatives, where Democrats need only 15 to retake control.

FBI spokesperson Stephen Kodak said the bureau was conducting an "assessment to determine if there has been any violation of federal law" involving Rep. Mark Foley of Florida who resigned on Friday amid allegations he sent inappropriate messages to young people working at the US Congress.

House of Representatives Speaker Dennis Hastert, Republican of Illinois, who said he was told of the situation some six months before Foley resigned, wrote US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales requesting a Justice Department investigation of Foley's conduct with current and former teens who work for the House as part-time interns, or pages.

Hastert said: "Since the communications involved interstate communications there should be a complete investigation and prosecution of federal laws that have been violated."

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said the attorney general should open a "full scale investigation immediately." Top House Republicans acknowledged on Saturday they had been aware of e-mail traffic between Foley and a former teenage page, but that they were not aware of the sexually explicit messages to other pages revealed last week.

The House Ethics Committee has been directed to investigate Foley's actions, and House Republican leaders also called for a criminal investigation into his contacts with pages.

FOLEY in a Feb. 21 photo. REUTERS

Foley, 52, a six-term Florida Republican, resigned after ABC News reported he sent messages containing references to sexual organs and acts to current and former congressional pages.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said House Republican leaders should be questioned under oath on how much they knew of Foley's e-mails to male pages, the teenagers who answer telephones, deliver documents and run other errands for members of Congress. *Reuters*

All 155 aboard Brazil plane dead in Amazon crash

BRASILIA, BRAZIL—THERE were no survivors among the 155 people aboard the Brazilian jetliner that collided with a smaller plane and crashed in the Amazon rain forest in the nation's worst air disaster, authorities said.

Aviation officials confirmed late Sunday that the Boeing 737-800 and an executive jet clipped each other in midair Friday, causing Gol airlines Flight 1907 to crash in jungle so dense that crews had to cut down trees to clear a space for rescue helicopters to land. The smaller plane—carrying Americans—landed safely at a nearby air force base.

Denise Abreu, director of Brazil's Civil Aviation Agency, told the government news service Agencia Brasil that after analyzing the flight data recorder of the executive jet, "what we can affirm is that there was a collision."

No other details were immediately released, and authorities had not yet located recorders from the Gol plane, she said.

The Brazilian air force said in a statement that rescue workers had combed through the wreckage and found no signs that anyone could have survived the crash. Workers had recovered two bodies by Sunday night and airlifted them out by helicopter, the statement said.

Some 30 Brazilian air force troops were staying to search for bodies and inspect the wreckage throughout the night; about 80 have been at the site during the day.

Gol airlines, which operated the flight, confirmed there were no survivors in its own release. The list of passengers was released, but Gol said it wasn't clear whether any non-Brazilians were aboard.

The death toll surpassed that of Brazil's previous worst air disaster: the 1982 crash of a Boeing 727 operated by the now-defunct Vasp airline in the northeastern city of Fortaleza that killed 137 people.

Globo news agency said Sunday that police questioned the seven passengers and crew aboard the executive jet, which had been headed to the United States. The passengers, all Americans, included Joe Sharkey, a journalist for The New York Times.

The seven said they felt a bump, the plane shook and the pilot took manual control for the landing, Globo reported.

The New York Times reported that Sharkey sent an e-mail to his wife saying: "Neither of the pilots can understand how a 737 could have hit us without them seeing it."

But National Civil Aviation Agency general director Milton Zuanazzi said Sunday that at airspeeds of hundreds of miles per hour (kilometers per hour), that was possible.

"They said they didn't see anything. But this is absolutely normal... In these conditions, you only a see a shadow and a noise," said Zuanazzi.

Officials have said the investigation into the crash could take at least three months.

Celio Wilson de Oliveira, the Mato Grosso state Secretary of Justice and Public Safety, said the plane crashed near a reservation of the Kayapo Capoto-Jarina Indians in Xingu Park, and Indians with machetes had hacked a path through the jungle toward the crash site.

"It's extremely difficult to get there," said Ademir Ribeiro, a foreman on the nearby Jarina ranch, the center for rescue operations. The ranch was located in the central state of Mato Grosso, some 1,700 km northwest of Rio de Janeiro.

Earlier, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who was the top vote-getter in elections Sunday and was headed for an Oct. 29 runoff, declared three days of official morning.

It was the first major disaster for Gol Linhas Aereas Intelligentes SA, a Brazilian airline that took to the skies in 2001 with six Boeing 737s, serving seven Brazilian cities. *AP*

PART of the fuselage and the wings of the Gol airlines Boeing 737-800 that crashed in the jungle lies on the jungle floor at the Jarina Indian reserve in the Brazilian Amazon basin Oct. 1. REUTERS

2 Americans share Nobel in medicine

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN—AMERicans Andrew Z. Fire and Craig C. Mello won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for their work in controlling the flow of genetic information.

The Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm honored the pair Monday for their discovery of "RNA interference—gene silencing by double-stranded RNA."

RNA interference occurs in plants, animals and humans. The institute said it is of great importance for the regulation of gene expression, participates in defense against viral infections, and keeps jumping genes under control.

RNA interference is already being widely used in basic science as a method to study the function of genes and it may lead to novel therapies in the future.

Fire, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mello, of Harvard University, were born in 1959 and 1960, respectively.

"This year's Nobel Laureates have discovered a fundamental mechanism for controlling the flow of genetic information. Our genome operates by sending instructions for the manufacture of proteins from DNA in the nucleus of the cell to the protein synthesizing machinery in the cytoplasm. These instructions are conveyed by messenger RNA," the institute said.

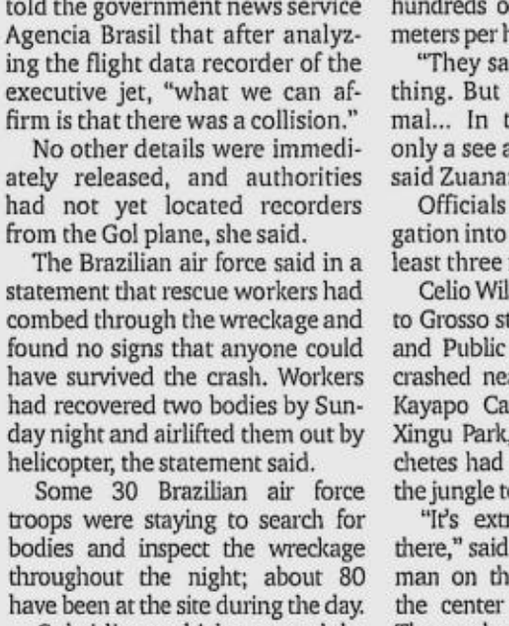
Fire and Mello published their discovery of a mechanism that can degrade mRNA from a specific gene in 1998.

Last year's medicine prize went to Australians Barry J. Marshall and Robin Warren for discovering that bacteria, not stress, causes ulcers.

The physiology or medicine prize, presented by the Nobel committee at the Karolinska institute in Stockholm, kicked off two weeks of award announcements ending with the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 13. On Tuesday, the physics prize will be announced, followed by the chemistry prize on Wednesday. The economics prize will be announced Oct. 9. No date for the literature prize has been cited, but it is likely to be announced on Thursday or on Oct. 12.

The Nobel committees do not reveal who has been nominated for the awards, but that does not stop experts and Nobel-watchers from speculating on potential winners.

Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite, established the prizes in his will in the categories of literature, peace, medicine, physics and chemistry. *AP*



PROTESTERS wait for the results of the elections at the parliament building in Budapest Oct. 1. AFP

Hungary PM weakened by local polls

BUDAPEST—HUNGARY'S PRIME MINISter vowed to stay on after a big defeat in Sunday's local polls but his future now hinges on whether his coalition will continue to back him after an appeal by the president for it to reconsider.

Ferenc Gyurcsany's taped comments to a Socialist Party meeting, leaked two weeks ago, in which he said "we lied in the morning, we lied in the evening," prompted protests and a voter backlash as well as criticism from President Laszlo Solyom.

Analysts said Solyom came as close as he could to asking parliament to oust Gyurcsany, but his limited powers meant all he could do was ask government MPs, who have 210 seats in the 386-member parliament, to decide.

The opposition won 18 of 19 counties and 15 of 23 cities in the local polls, its best ever result, prompting its leaders to say that the people had voted Gyurcsany out of office.

Gyurcsany, who has introduced tax hikes and benefit cuts to reduce Hungary's huge budget deficit, said on Sunday he and his program enjoyed the full support of both his Socialist party and the junior coalition partner the Free Democrats.

But the election defeat, in which coalition parties lost major strongholds apart from the capital Budapest, will test Gyurcsany's and the coalition's resolve, analysts said.

Street protests, which started two weeks ago, are also expected to continue, increasing pressure on the government.

"The danger is that there will be a slow erosion (of his support) within the Socialist Party... we will find out this in the next few months," said Gergely Hudecz, a political analyst at DZ Bank in Budapest.

Philosopher Janos Kis, a former president of the Free Democrats, said the prime minister should initiate a vote of confidence in parliament to clear up the situation or that Gyurcsany should formally apologize for his lies.

Gyurcsany has apologized for the tone of his comments on the tape, but not for lies themselves.

"I believe that after the president's speech, it cannot be avoided that the prime minister should raise the confidence issue in parliament," Kis wrote in daily Magyar Hirlap. *Reuters*

Russia, Georgia leaders clash over spy crisis

TBILISI—GEORGIAN PRESIdent Mikhail Saakashvili has dismissed sharp words by Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying Moscow was unlikely to use force to free four Russian officers whose arrest for spying has sparked a crisis.

"I don't think they are irrational enough to use military force," Saakashvili told Western journalists in a late-night interview on Sunday. "It is an overreaction caused by nervousness that they have created by themselves."

Putin, in unusually harsh remarks, accused Georgia of "state terrorism with hostage-taking" by arresting the Russian army officers last week and charging them with spying.

The arrests have provoked the most serious crisis between pro-Western Georgia and its giant former Soviet master in years.

Russia has withdrawn its ambassador and dozens of officials from Tbilisi and stopped issuing visas to Georgians.

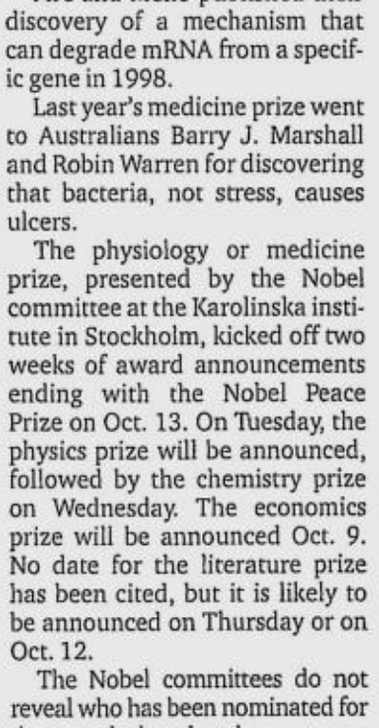
Putin's comments, made after a meeting near Moscow of security officials, were interpreted by Georgia's foreign ministry as a threat to use military force.

But Saakashvili, in the interview in the port town of Batumi, brushed this off as well as possible economic sanctions by Russia, which provides Georgia's gas supplies and controls the country's power grid.

"People have gotten used to economic problems and have started coping with them," he said, adding that Moscow has become "hostages of their own propaganda." Putin on Sunday also compared Georgia's moves against the officers to the actions of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's feared secret police chief, Lavrenty Beria. Both Beria and Stalin were ethnic Georgians.

Putin suggested Saakashvili was fooling by believing he could count on "foreign sponsors"—a reference to the United States—for support in the confrontation with Russia.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and the 56-member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have urged a solution. *Reuters*



PUTIN AP

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Business, investors welcome new PM

SURAYUD (center) visits the Wat Bowonniwet temple in Bangkok Oct. 2 on his first day as new interim prime minister of Thiland. AFP

BANGKOK—THAI BUSINESS LEADERS AND INVESTORS Monday welcomed their new premier amid hopes the military-backed leader would shore up confidence in an economy rocked by months of political crisis.

The generals who ousted Thaksin Shinawatra in a Sept. 19 coup on Sunday appointed General Surayud Chulanont, a 63-year-old former army chief, as the new prime minister until elections promised for October 2007.

"His appointment was good news for the Thai economy," said Santi Vilassakdanont, chair of the Federation of Thai Industries, the country's largest business group.

"After months of political turmoil, we see Surayud as someone who can unite Thailand. He is clean and transparent, and we hope that his appointment will boost investors' confidence." Santi was one of 60 experts tapped by the military to guide them on economic, foreign, governance and reconciliation policies following the coup against Thaksin whose rule had led to increasingly bitter divisions.

Sukhbir Khanijoh, an economist at Kasikorn Securities, said investors would see Surayud, a widely respected career soldier, as "a stabilizing force for Thai politics." The bloodless coup capped months of political protests demanding Thaksin's resignation over alleged abuse of power and corruption.

"After welcoming Surayud, the market is waiting to see his cabinet ministers," Sukhbir said. "But overall, investors were happy to have Surayud as the new prime minister because right now the nation needs reconciliation and he is the most suitable leader to do so."

But the junta's pick of Surayud failed to boost Thai share prices Monday as after an initially firm start, investors sold stocks instead to raise capital ahead of the initial public offering (IPO) of China's largest bank.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand composite index fell 2.04 points or 0.30 percent to close the morning session at 684.06.

"Investors had already expected Surayud to become the next prime minister, so there was no surprise in the market," said Sukit Udomsirikul, a senior market analyst at Siam City Securities.

"Rather than the Surayud factor, investors were driven by the ICBC factor," said Sukit. "Many investors were selling bank-related shares to prepare for ICBC's IPO."

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) plans to list in Shanghai and Hong Kong on Oct. 27 in what could be a world-record initial public offering worth some $20 billion.

Surayud had said in his first news conference on Sunday that he would not measure economic progress based only on the gross domestic product (GDP).

"I will focus on the happiness of the people rather than GDP," he said.

Central bank chief Pridiyathorn Devaluka, a key economic advisor for the junta, said he agreed with Surayud and called for economic reforms focusing on income distribution rather than boosting the economy. *AFP*

W. House backs Rumsfeld, denies charges on Iraq

WASHINGTON—US PRESIdent George W. Bush has confidence in Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, despite accusations that he botched the Iraq war and earlier efforts by top Bush aides to replace him, the White House said on Sunday.

White House counselor Dan Bartlett also said Condoleezza Rice, who served as Bush's national security adviser before becoming secretary of state, had proposed a complete change of Bush's national security team after his 2004 reelection.

This was in addition to efforts by White House chief of staff Andrew Card to replace Rumsfeld, as reported in a new book by Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward on Bush's handling of the war.

"The president has full confidence in Secretary Rumsfeld," Bartlett told ABC's "This Week." Rumsfeld was doing an "enormously difficult job," he added.

Bartlett also denied Bush was misleading the America public about violence against US troops in Iraq, a central charge in a Woodward's book "State of Denial." Rumsfeld, who critics say failed to adequately plan for the Iraq war or send enough troops, remains the right person to lead it, Bartlett said. "We recognize that he has his critics, we recognize that he's made some very difficult decisions. Some people don't like his bedside manners," Bartlett said.

Bush wants Rumsfeld "to bring him the type of information he needs to make the right decisions in this war," Bartlett said.

Rumsfeld said on Sunday he would not resign and that Bush had personally called to offer support.

"Oh my Lord, yes," he said in response to a question on whether Bush affirmed his support.

Rumsfeld has offered his resignation twice but it was not accepted by the president.

Rumsfeld, speaking to reporters on a flight to Nicaragua, also dismissed suggestions that he and Rice had at one point not been speaking to one another.

Disputing Woodward's assertion that Card tried to fire Rumsfeld with the support of First Lady Laura Bush, Bartlett said Card merely presented Cabinet options to Bush. He also said Rice "suggested to the president maybe he ought to bring in a whole new national-security team starting the second term."

"The president decided that's not the approach he wanted to take," Bartlett said. *Reuters*

Pope linked to 'child abuse cover-up'

LONDON—A BRITISH DOCUmentary aired Sunday claimed that Pope Benedict XVI was implicated in the systematic cover-up of child sex abuse allegations against Catholic priests.

Before becoming head of the church, the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger enforced church doctrinal orthodoxy, including a "secret Vatican decree which seemed to shelter the perpetrators and silence the victims of abuse," the Panorama program said.

This was the 1962 document "Crimen Sollicitationis," which told top churchmen how to deal with priests who "solicit or provoke the penitent toward impure and obscene matters," according to a translation from Latin on the BBC website.

It imposed an oath of secrecy on victims, witnesses and those probing abuse claims and said that anyone breaking this would be excommunicated, the BBC said.

Father Tom Doyle, a canon solicitor reportedly sacked by the Vatican after criticizing its handling of child abuse claims, told the BBC that "Crimen" was "an explicit written policy to cover up cases of child sexual abuse by the clergy, to punish those who would call attention to these crimes by the churchmen."

But the program's claims have provoked a furious response from the Catholic Church in Britain.

The Archbishop of Birmingham, in central England, the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, told Britain's Press Association news agency that it used Vatican documents "quite misleadingly in order to connect the horrors of child abuse to the person of the Pope."

Speaking on behalf of bishops in England and Wales, he accused the BBC of "a deeply prejudiced attack on a revered world religious leader." And he added that the Catholic Church in England and Wales was working to protect children with transparency and care.

Ratzinger clarified church law on the issue in 2001 and Panorama reported that he had ordered that the Vatican must have "exclusive competence" for child abuse cases.

"It's all controlled by the Vatican and at the top of the Vatican is the pope so Joseph Ratzinger was in the middle of this for most of the years that 'Crimen' was enforced," Doyle added.

The Pope could "tomorrow" order that the church take strong action against those accused of child sex scandals and cooperate with legal proceedings. *AFP*

POPE Benedict XVI blesses the faithful Oct. 1 during the Angelus. AFP

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Brazil's Lula faces tough runoff

BRASILIA, BRAZIL—BRAZIL'S LEFTist president faces a tough runoff campaign for a second term after his main rival staged a surprise election comeback amid voter outrage over an alleged ruling party scheme of corruption and dirty tricks.

It was a stunning setback for President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who before the corruption scandal had been expected to win Sunday's presidential election in the first round, buoyed by a stable economy and his successes at easing poverty in South America's most populous nation.

The result also gave second-place finisher Geraldo Alckmin, the center-right former governor of Sao Paulo state, a month to hammer Silva and his Workers' Party on the corruption issue until the Oct. 29 runoff vote.

"Alckmin now has a chance, and a good one," said Alexandre Barros, an analyst with the Brasilia-based Early Warning political risk consulting group.

With 99.9 percent of the vote counted by early Monday, Silva had 48.6 percent compared to 41.6 percent for Alckmin. Silva needed 50 percent plus one vote to win the contest in the first round.

Alckmin and top Silva aides said they planned a campaign of ideas and issues, but analysts said a brutal period of political attacks is possible, and a beaming Alckmin made it clear that clean government will be one of his central themes.

"Brazil can have an ethical, honest government," he told applauding supporters in Sao Paulo before dawn.

The business-friendly candidate said the vote proved his Social Democracy Party is "a party on the rise. We can govern the country better. We can build more sturdy coalitions and push the reforms Brazil needs."

Silva didn't issue any statements from the presidential residence in Brasilia, but top political adviser Tarso Genro said the president only narrowly missed getting an outright win and has always been prepared for a campaign that would lead to a second round.

"We came up just short," Genro said.

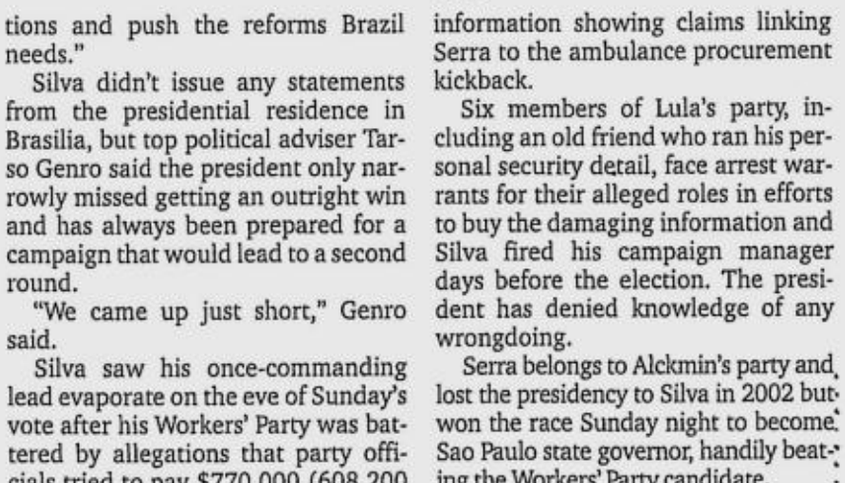
Silva saw his once-commanding lead evaporate on the eve of Sunday's vote after his Workers' Party was battered by allegations that party officials tried to pay $770,000 (608,200 euros) for a mysterious dossier supposedly containing documents, photos and DVDs apparently linking Sao Paulo gubernatorial candidate Jose Serra to graft when he was health minister between 1998 and 2002.

Major newspapers ran front-page photos over the weekend showing piles of money allegedly meant to buy information showing claims linking Serra to the ambulance procurement kickback.

Six members of Lula's party, including an old friend who ran his personal security detail, face arrest warrants for their alleged roles in efforts to buy the damaging information and Silva fired his campaign manager days before the election. The president has denied knowledge of any wrongdoing.

Serra belongs to Alckmin's party and lost the presidency to Silva in 2002 but won the race Sunday night to become Sao Paulo state governor, handily beating the Workers' Party candidate.

Silva's party claimed that Alckmin's supporters were involved in leaking the photos to the media, and filed a complaint Sunday with a judge demanding that Alckmin's candidacy be declared invalid. The judge said he would consider the case. Alckmin's campaign has denied involvement. *AP*



BRAZILIAN presidential candidates Geraldo Alckmin (left) and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in this combination photo taken in Sao Paulo Oct. 1. REUTERS

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Federer practice draws 1,000 fans in Tokyo/A23

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ Tiger warns rivals: I can still do better/A23

A Goldie flop triumphs as coach

Rookie Jarencio fulfills UAAP championship dream with Growling Tigers

By Musong R. Castillo

A LOVE AFFAIR RE-kindled—and from the looks of it, one that will last a lifetime.

Rookie coach Pido Jarencio was embraced by a throng like a demigod last night, just seconds after the final buzzer confirmed Santo Tomas' stature as the new varsity basketball power with its stirring conquest of Ateneo in Game 3 of the UAAP finals.

Jarencio noticed that many of those who watched the Tigers yesterday as basically the same faces who cheered for the school in the middle-1980s, when he carried the Glowing Goldies on his shoulders in epic battles.

The promise was fulfilled—finally—and in a manner which Jarencio said made it sweeter.

One of all-time best

From one of its best players of all time, Jarencio finally won the title that eluded him in his collegiate career, disproving the nonbelievers who thought that he had actually wrecked the school's basketball program when he arrived to call the shots.

Several players from last season's roster were relegated to the training pool, and a number of new faces were brought in by Jarencio himself in a move that set the tone for a disputed long-term program.

Winning the UAAP title after a pulsating 76-74 overtime win against the Blue Eagles was something unexpected, though

THE University of Santo Tomas faithful celebrate their stunning victory over Ateneo. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Jarencio had that one little place in his heart that told him that it could be done.

"I had a good team after all," Jarencio told the INQUIRER, just minutes after donning a white T-shirt that proclaimed his over-achieving Tigers as the UAAP champions.

Homecoming gift

The championship was a perfect homecoming gift of sorts for the 5-foot-10 former gunslinger, who did more than what was asked of him during his days as a Glowing Goldie—only to end up holding an empty bag.

He cried unabashedly on the bench after getting his traditional victory ride, thanking the Lord for the blessing and all those who helped him achieve his goals in the shortest time possible.

It had occurred to him that he might fail again, especially after the Eagles had opened up a five-point lead with under three minutes left.

But he knew that going down and losing was the other part of the game, and he wouldn't get stuck in it without fighting.

"I was able to instill in this team the attitude that I had as a player," Jarencio said. "And that was never to give up despite the odds.

"Ateneo played a great series, my hats off to them," he continued. "They were a worthy foe. But this is a game and one has to come out on top. Both our teams deserve this title, it was just that we were blessed a little more."

UST takes judo plum; Lady Maroons prevail

THE SURGE OF THE TIGERS continued in judo as Santo Tomas regained the men's crown, even as University of the Philippines regained its women's title in UAAP Season 69 at the Blue Eagle gym over the weekend.

Santo Tomas and UP actually only switched places from last season, when the Maroons reigned supreme in the men's contest and the Tigresses were queen in the women's side.

This time, the Tigers beat the Maroons by a point with its 40-point haul to snare its seventh league title. The Maroons were relegated to runners-up in the event where a gold medal is worth 10 points, a silver five points and a bronze two points.

The Lady Maroons snatched their ninth UAAP judo title with five gold medals out of a possible seven. The Lady Maroons collected 76 points to handily beat the UST whose Tigresses earned just 29 points. Ateneo was third with 10 points.

Orcollo pockets World Pool League title, P1M

NOW, DENNIS ORCOLLO CAN RIGHTFULLY claim that he's a big leaguer. A world champion, no less.

Achieving a cherished dream, Orcollo bested Niels Feijen of the Netherlands, 8-5, on Sunday to rule the 2006 Partypoker.com World Pool League held in Warsaw, Poland.

Though Orcollo has posted many victories and earned purses bigger than the $20,000 the WPL offered, it was the first major 9-ball title for the 27-year-old pride of Bislig, Surigao del Sur.

BIG LEAGUER: Orcollo lifts his trophy. WPL.COM

Orcollo has won seven tournaments thus far and placed third in the 2006 North American International Pool Tour (IPT) shoot-out in the United States.

"This victory is very, very big for me, I can hardly speak," said Orcollo, acknowledged as the Filipino money game king in the WPL website. "I'd like to dedicate this win to the people of the Philippines."

In particular, Orcollo, residing in Murphy, Quezon City, thanked the Filipino community in Warsaw for coming out to support him during the six-man by-invitation-only tourney.

En route to the title, Orcollo nipped former World Pool champion Ralf Souquet of Germany, 8-5, in the semifinal. Feijen trounced another former World Pool titlist, Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 8-2, in the final four.

Orcollo thus joined the elite roster of WPL winners that include compatriots Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, and Americans Jim Rempe, and Rodney Morris.

With the count tied at 4, Feijen scratched after dumping the 1 ball into the middle pocket, allowing Orcollo to clear the table and move ahead. Orcollo then broke and run in the 10th game to increase his lead to 6-4.

In the 11th frame, Feijen got the better of the safety battle to move to 6-5.

It turned out to be a false ray of hope as Orcollo banked the 1 ball into the middle pocket and set up a run in the 12th frame, before sealing the win by sinking the 2/9 combination.

As soon as the ball disappeared, Orcollo leapt with delight as the crowd rose to acknowledge his victory. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Finally, a girl for Pacquiao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—IT'S A BABY girl, finally, for Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao.

Jinky, Pacquiao's wife, delivered a healthy baby girl through normal procedure around 4:31 p.m. on Sunday at the General Santos Doctor's Hospital.

This is the third child and the first girl for the Pacquiao couple. The baby measured 71 centimeters and weighed 7.4 pounds.

Pacquiao told reporters here before flying to Manila last month that the baby girl will be christened Mary Divine Grace.

This, he said, is his own way of thanking God for all the blessings that have come his way.

Pacquiao is in the United States preparing for his rubber match against Mexico's Erik Morales on Nov. 18 in Las Vegas.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

PACQUIAO: Big numbers

Online poll favors Pacquiao over Morales

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

GOING BY THE RESULTS OF RECENT polls, Filipino ring hero Manny Pacquiao will be a huge favorite when betting houses open in Las Vegas for his rubber match with Mexico's Erik Morales on Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center.

Based on the latest online poll conducted by no less than Morales' own website, Box-latino.com, the Filipino lefty is being conceded by poll subscribers as the most likely to prevail, via knockout or by decision.

After having polled close to 13,000 online participants, 69.32 percent believe that Pacquiao will again win by knockout over Morales.

Only 6.39 percent tabbed Morales to prevail by knockout.

Should the fight go the distance, 20.08 percent favored Pacquiao as the most likely winner while only 4.13 percent thought otherwise.

This sentiment was shared even by those who voted in promoter Bob Arum's own website, Toprank.com.

In the Arum survey, 59 percent of a total of 15,790 voters gave Pacquiao the nod to win, while only 41 percent felt Morales could turn the table in their third showdown.

Over at Pacquiao's de facto website, Mannypacquiao.ph, which is owned by Cebu's Dong Secuya, 82.5 percent of the 8,000 polled said Pacquiao would again stop Morales while only 5.9 percent believed Morales would merge victorious inside the distance.

Gin Kings back up royal status

AFTER A 33-POINT WIN IN ITS DEBUT, CHEMISTRY FEARS FOR THE pre-tournament favorite seems unfounded after all.

"I don't think that would be an issue anymore," new Barangay Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said, moments after his star-studded Gin Kings manhandled debuting Welcoat, 102-69, after the formal PBA Philippine Cup opening rites on Sunday.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Alaska
7:20 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Talk 'N Text

"We all talked about it before the start (of the tournament), that not everyone can enjoy the (playing) minutes they used to."

Because of that covenant with his players, Uichico dismissed any talk that there would be an unloading of personnel. There won't be talk that some of the Kings could get more playing time in another squad.

"We started this tournament as one team and we will finish it as one," Uichico declared.

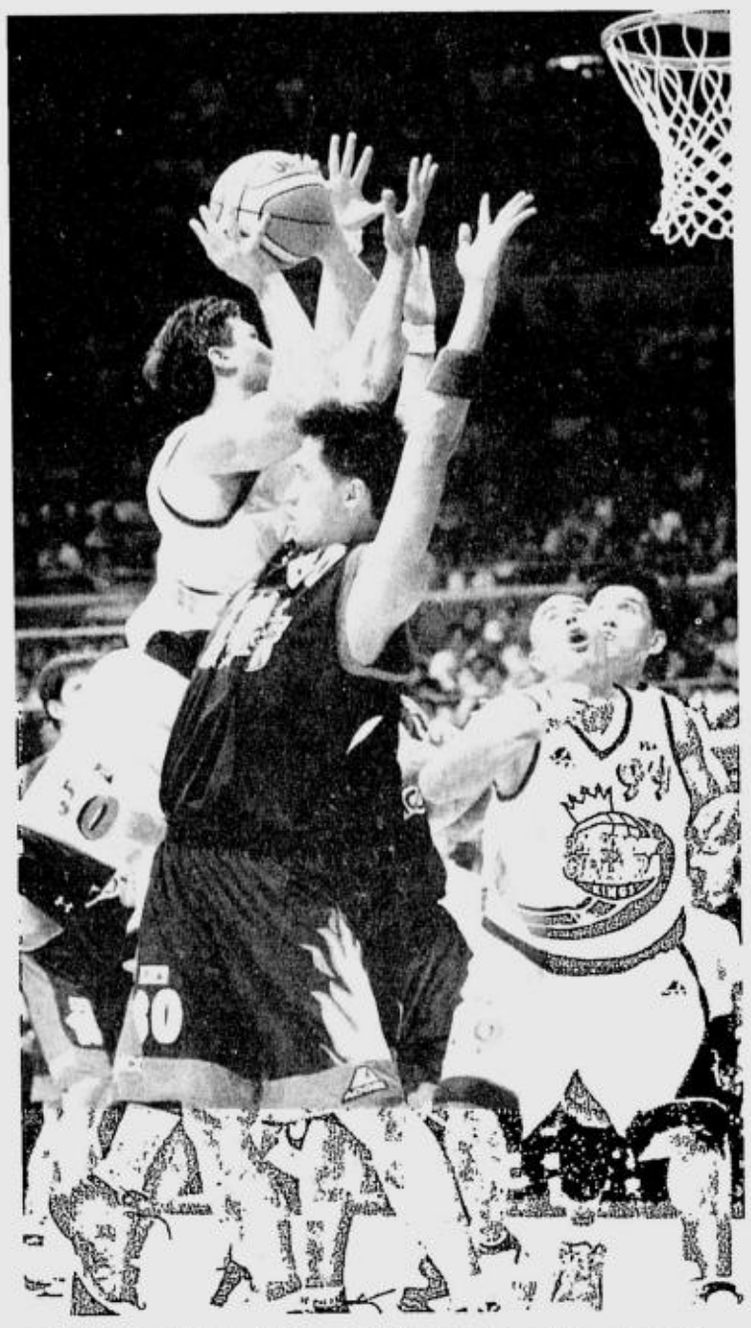
Ginebra is the strongest team on paper, thanks to a controversial multi-player trade involving three teams that netted the Kings frontliners Rafi Reavis, Billy Mamaril and the hard-working Rudy Hatfield.

The Kings also bagged 1996 Most Valuable Player Johnny Abarrientos in the free agent market, and the "Flying A" showed some of the stuff that he can still do with a brilliant effort despite limited time Sunday night.

Uichico said that because of the talk he had with the players, his job has become a lot easier. He admitted, though, that the adjustments the squad made did not come from the players.

"Naka-adjust na ako ng konti sa kanila (I've been able to adjust to their style)," he said, referring to the run-and-gun Ginebra play which is a big departure from the deliberate pace that he instilled in San Miguel.

"There will be no major changes in the (old Ginebra) system," Uichico said. "What I am doing is implementing a few plays I did with San Miguel and these won't change the way they play." *Musong R. Castillo*



GINEBRA'S Eric Menk drives off Gilbert La'O of Welcoat as new Gin King Rudy Hatfield gets ready for the rebound during their PBA game Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Tribu five downs North Cotabato for 1st NBC win

KIDAPAWAN CITY—TRIBU SUGBU snapped a two-game skid in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil NBC National Cup basketball tournament Saturday by turning back the North Cotabato Braves, 64-61, at the provincial capitol gym here.

The Arthro-Skygo-backed Cebuanos of businessmen Jonathan Guardo and Lito Gillamac leaned on JR "Baby" Shaq Quiñahan and Doroteo Almacin to repulse the Braves and post their first win in three games in the tournament supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten, Cebu Holiday Plaza-Hotel and Prime Channel.

Tonyboy Espinosa and Edu Allado strung up the Braves' final six points for a 61-60 lead with 52 seconds remaining.

But Quiñahan and Almacin struck back to grab the upperhand for the Cebuanos. A travelling violation by Arnel Manalac in the last seven seconds sealed the Braves' setback.

Quiñahan collected 18 points on 8-for-13 shooting, grabbed 11 rebounds and had a conference-high seven blocks. Almacin, last year's most improved player, chipped in 14.

Espinosa led the Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol with 14 points but failed to get enough support from his teammates.

The Braves try to bounce back today when they host the debuting Montañna Pawnshop-Davao of businessman Armanado Quibod.

Over at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros, Manila, two teams—the Cellular Pawnshop of businessman Paulo Ybanez and the Bacchus/Harbour Centre-San Juan of Mikee Romero and coach Lawrence Chongson—square off at 7 p.m. as they open their respective bids in the country's premier regional cagefest.

The scores:

TRIBU 64—Quinahan 18, Almacin 14, Bucao 8, De Guzman 6, Abelong 5, Mercado 5, Caparros 3, Gadiane 3, Sevilla 2, Armoneda 0, Sayud. Santos 0

NORTH COTABATO 61—Espinosa 14, Ligue 9, Renandez 8, Tamayo 8, Allado 6, Tanigue 5, Dagatan 4, Manalac 4, Martinez 3, Cabanog 0, Raymundo 0, Jawod 0

Quarters: 16-17, 37-35, 54-49, 64-61

SPORTSWATCH

Domingo fights Frenchman for WBF title

PHILIPPINE BANTAMWEIGHT KING MICHAEL DOMINGO ATTEMPTS TO become the only Filipino with a world title today when he takes on Frenchman Frederic Patrac in a 12-round battle for the World Boxing Foundation crown at the Palais Des Sports in Agde, France. Domingo, who is with manager Sammy Gelloani and trainer Edmund Villamor, will be seeing action in his first world title fight after defending his RP crown three times. The native of Libac, Sultan Kudarat, expects the odds to be stacked against him in his battle with the French fighter. Since their arrival at the Athena Hotel in Agde, where they are billeted, Domingo has been working out at the Center International Tennis Club. Since joining the SGG Stable, Domingo has been on a streak of eight victories. ***Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor***

'Labanan' eliminations set in Metro

THE ELIMINATION ROUNDS IN METRO MANILA OF THE "NO ENTRY FEE Labanan 7-Stag Derby," conceptualized by popular cockfighter Patrick Antonio and sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, will start Oct. 9 at San Juan Coliseum. No less than P1.3 million await the winners in the Metro Manila leg. A participant may join the 3-stag eliminations by presenting P1,000 proof of purchase of any Sagupaan products. Elimination rounds will also be staged at the San Juan venue on Oct 16, Pasig Square Garden (Oct. 15), Pasay City Cockpit (Oct. 20) and Oct. 24 (Araneta Coliseum). The 4-stag finals is on Oct. 26 at Araneta Coliseum. Allowed stags are those banded by GCAP-Labanan, LGBA, NGBA, GF-BAN, CVGBA, IGBA, Pagba, Migba, Tagba, BBC, GBAT, Cegba, KGBA, Bigba and Bakbakan. For inquiries, call 0916-4763030 (Ariel) or 0917-8064758 (Neil).

Top Angeles poker players vie against Metro counterparts

TOP POKER PLAYERS FROM ANGELES CITY COMPETE against Metro Manila bets in the Angeles Hold'em Challenge Part II this Sunday at the Casino Filipino Angeles at the Century Resort Hotel in Balibago, Angeles City.

Winners of this tournament will earn berths in the grand finals of the Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine Championship slated Dec. 16-17 at the Casino Filipino Pavilion, Manila.

Angeles City players, led by champion Steve Hupner, cornered the first four spots in the first Hold'em tournament at the same venue on Sept. 2. The other qualifiers were Elmira Wagas, Jimmy Bundalian, and John Santos. Mauro Flores, one of several players from Manila, placed fifth.

Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) chair Rey Gamboa said these non-wager tournaments are held in cooperation with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to prepare local players for international competition.

For inquiries, call Cindy of the PPT Secretariat at 817-9092 or 812-0153 or visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com.

Other qualifying-satellite tournaments: Casino Filipino Tagaytay, Oct. 14; Casino Filipino Bacolod, Oct. 21; Casino Filipino Waterfront Hotel, Cebu, Oct. 28; Casino Filipino Mactan, Nov. 11; Casino Filipino Davao, Nov. 25.

Red-hot Aguilar sweeps Camel Int'l Supercross

TALISAY CITY—MULTI-TITLED Glenn Aguilar whipped up his own storm in the Visayas on Sunday, ruling the Talisay leg of the 2006 Camel Supercross International Championship Series before a rain-soaked crowd at the Talisay Stadium.

Nicknamed "The Flying A," Aguilar came up with a performance as devastating as super typhoon "Milenyo" by sweeping both the Pro Open and Pro 125 categories in the three-part series sponsored by Camel Filters and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

Not even a late afternoon rain which turned the racetrack into a sea of mud prevented Aguilar, who is also favored to to sweep the next two legs in Ormoc City on Nov. 12 and Iloilo City on Nov. 26.

AGUILAR

Aguilar has amassed a perfect score of 50 points in the series, under the 25-20-18-16-15 scoring system.

Only Kenneth San Andres, Aguilar's heir apparent, managed to put up a strong challenge in boih the Pro Open and Pro 125 classes.

A sophomore at the Manila Central University, San Andres stayed with Aguilar for most part of the race.

The absence of James Robinson of New Zealand, who was sidelined by a knee injury in Malaysia, and multi-titled Jovie Saulog, who failed to arrive made things a lot easier for Aguilar and San Andres.

Another foreign entry, Guam's Frank Rios, competed but suffered a career-threatening spill. He was rushed to a nearby hospital for immediate medical attention.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Gutsy (6), Kalashnikov (7), Kawilivili (5), Lovely tara (4)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Reptoid (4), Kailey's Tiara (6), Asukarera De mama (2), Alfa Romeo (1), She's Coming (14)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Showtime Lady (5), Inca (3), Red Bells (10), Top Of D'Line (11), Golden Lance (7)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Full Of Fury (9), Boxster (11), Sunline (4), Lightning Strike (10), Heading West/K ay Akano (5)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— El Love Senora (5), Odyssey (9), Mountain Eagle (8), Powerhouse (2), Fahrenheit (4)
Race 6—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri) —Hoy Sobra Na (2), Hok Kee Hok (4), Piroutte (1), Earl's Game/Wprth Ur While (5), Sa Wakas (6), Mapagkwento (10)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Don Ramon (8), Head Turner (2), Mainstay (9), Words Of Joy (10), Extreme Romance (1)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri) —Modern Classic (8), I Remain (3), Lady Cathy (2), Hello Africa (9), Hurry Prince (5), Wild Orphan (1)

Bata's IPT victory on RPN-9 tonight

THE MAGNIFICENT VICTORY OF BILliards icon Efren "Bata" Reyes in the recent IPT 8-Ball Open where he won a record paycheck of $500,000 (P25.3 million) will be telecast on RPN-9 starting at 10:30 p.m. today.

Four key matches of Reyes are in store for Filipino pool fans, courtesy of billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, who acquired the TV rights at a substantial cost. *Manolo Iñigo*

Water polo, softball officials to blame for Asiad boo-boo?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AS A LONGTIME FOLLOWER OF THE Asian Games, I suppose I can complain.

Why did the Philippines skip the water polo and softball events of the Doha Asiad on Dec. 1-15? What on earth is wrong with our sports officials?

I pity those athletes who have been looking forward to competing in the quadrennial games only to lose that rare chance because their narrow-minded officials lacked the foresight to raise the needed funds in advance and—in the case of the warring softball camps—doing nothing to patch up their petty differences.

It is the fault of these do-nothing officials who failed to source out the needed funds for their water polo team when they knew (from as far back as six months ago) that the more than 300-strong RP delegation to the Doha Games—the biggest RP contingent to the Asiad in 55 years—would have to raise their own money after they were told of the tight budget of P30 million from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Sports officials must not always rely on the PSC for monetary assistance. They need to show their financial independence by not pestering the government for financial assistance every so often; that they should aggressively solicit the support of the private sector for their activities although it is also important to assure these private donors that their money would be spent wisely.

These sponsors may not look too kindly if we win only a few gold medals despite sending a big contingent.

The Filipino people, the taxpayers in particular, are now more sensitive to the country's performance abroad. They are sick and tired of losing, of embarking on haphazard preparations for an international competition, one reason why basketball—despite its widespread popularity and historical value—had been earlier dropped from the Doha Games.

As POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said, "If we are to send a (basketball) team to (Doha) Qatar, it must be composed of the best players."

The country's top PBA players, who have been representing the Philippines in previous Asian Games since 1990, had earlier begged off from playing in this year's Asiad.

On the other hand, softball is out of the Asiad because its officials are locked in conflict, with one group led by former Rep. Harry Angping fighting the other headed by former Pasig Mayor Mario Raymundo.

"We couldn't send the best softball team possible because half of the players are with one group while the other half is with another," said PSC Commissioner Richie Garcia, deputy chief of mission of Team RP.

* * *

Relying on their rigorous training, fierce dedication and passion for the sport, Filipino dance couples did the country proud again by winning several gold medals in the recent 10th Hong Kong Open International Dance Sport Championships at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

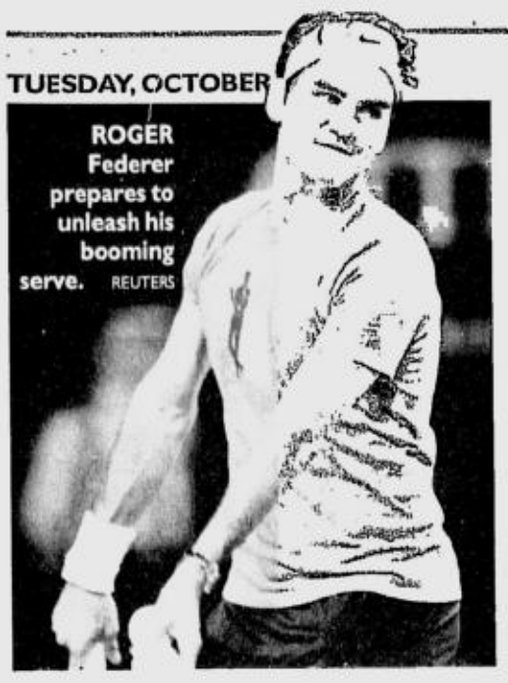
Headed by Dance Sport Council of the Philippines president Becky Garcia and DSCP treasurer and international licensed adjudicator Gloria Alcala, the Philippines bagged five gold medals, several silvers and bronzes, aside from landing in the elite group of finalists.

Organized by Walter Luk in cooperation with the Asia Dance Sport Council and the International Chamber of Ballroom Dancing, those who won gold medals were Marvin Marquez and Rebecca Jose in Standard Pro-Amateur C; Troy Tesaluna and Rowena Chua in Latin Grade C and Latin Grade D; Leonardo Telabangco and Chona Mercado, Standard Basic Grade E; and Ver Flores and Cynthia Mamon, Standard Senior category.

The others who shone were Jonas Napoli-Juliet Genio, 4th place, Standard Pro-Amateur C; Jesse Panelo-Marvi Yulo, 4th place, Standard Senior; Jonas Napoli-Juliet Genio 2nd place and Romel Reyes-Ana Go, 4th, Standard Grade D; Rodel Espinosa-Marinette Alarilla, 3rd, Gennysam Alcantara-Arlene Afable, 5th, Arnel Canalita-Cristina Kierulf, 6th Latin Grade C; and Rodel Espinosa-Marinette Alarilla, 2nd place and A. Canalita-C. Kierulf, 4th, Latin Grade D.

Earlier, veteran internationalists Emmanuel Reyes-Maira Rosete, John Erolle Melencio-Dearlie Gerodias and Richard Obong-Jenevieve Camacho emerged finalists in the amateur events of the same Hong Kong dancefest dominated by the Europeans.

More than 300 couples from the Philippines, Indonesia, Poland, Russia, Korea, Singapore, Thailand and host Hong Kong competed in the world-class event where Ms Garcia was honored for heading the country with the biggest number of competitors.



ROGER Federer prepares to unleash his booming serve. REUTERS

Federer practice draws 1,000 fans in Tokyo

TOKYO—ROGER FEDERER'S FIRST practice session before this week's Japan Open drew a squealing crowd of over 1,000 fans eager to see the world number one on Monday.

Organizers pampered the Swiss by laying on ball boys as he hit with star-struck Japanese players for a little over an hour in preparation for his first tournament in Japan.

"It was really great fun to have my practice announced officially at 10 a.m. on center court," Federer told reporters.

"I can't remember ever having that. We had ball boys and everything. The only thing missing was the umpire!"

Federer is to meet British number one Andy Murray in the semi-finals, but the nine-times grand slam singles winner said he had not even seen the draw.

"If somebody gives me the draw I'll have a look at it," smiled Federer, who has won eight tournaments in a superb year in which he claimed three more grand slam titles.

"I always look maybe two or three rounds ahead and then I'll know who'll still be around. But I try not to get too excited. My focus is not on Andy—it's the entire tournament."

Federer, who will play either Spain's Fernando Vicente or a qualifier in his opening match after receiving a first-round bye, quickly threw down the gauntlet to his rivals.

"It's been a fantastic year and I don't want to break a fantastic year by not being professional," he said. "Motivation is not a problem."

Spain's Tommy Robredo is seeded second behind Federer in Tokyo while Murray and fellow Briton Tim Henman are also among a strong field at the $765,000 tournament.

Federer won his third straight US Open last month in a record sixth straight grand slam final appearance but ominously he warned that he was still hungry for more major success.

"I'm only halfway through my career and I have a lot of tennis left," the 25-year-old said. "My motivation has always been to win grand slams and be number one.

"All of a sudden to lose my motivation while I'm at the top is not something that makes sense." *Reuters*

WORLD GOLF ROMP

Tiger: I can still do better

THE GROVE, ENGLAND—TIGER WOODS SENT OUT A CHILLING warning after winning the World Golf Championship event here at The Grove saying he can get even better.

This was Woods' sixth straight strokeplay win on the PGA Tour, he is halfway to overhauling Byron Nelson's record of 11 consecutive wins set in 1945, but he says he will be striving for improvement after he has had a short break.

He shot a last round 67 to win by eight shots from Ian Poulter and Adam Scott and insisted there is more to come.

Woods said: "You've got to always keep pushing yourself to get better. Getting better comes from within. This is a game that is fluid, it's always changing and evolving and every facet of the game can improve.

"As good as I hit it this week, I did hit some bad shots. I didn't putt well on the weekend so there you go."

The last time Woods was as dominant as he is now was in 2000 when he won three majors and when he won the 2001 US Masters he had all four major championship trophies in his possession, and he thinks it still possible for him to win a calendar Grand Slam.

"My iron game is better than then," he added. "I have a lot more shots and I am able to control my ball better now. And I'm hitting the ball 20 or 30 yards further now, technology has changed so much.

"As far as my putting is concerned it is still kind of streaky. I have weeks when I putt well but I know I can improve on that.

"It is interesting how I was getting ripped for making my swing change and here we are. That's why I made those changes—it is nice to have the opportunity to do the things I know I can do in this game of golf.

"I've won more than four tournaments this year, I've just got to win the right four (for the Grand Slam). You've got to have a lot of things go your way but it is still only four."

Woods' brilliant run of wins has been overshadowed by the death of his father, Earl, this summer. He missed the cut the US Open when he returned to action after a period of grieving, came second in the Western Open and has won every strokeplay event he has entered ever since.

He said: "If you take into account what has happened off the golf course—it is my worst ever year. I consider (the year) a loss. In the grand scheme of things golf doesn't even compare to losing a parent."

It was a good week for Poulter who went some way to making up for missing out on a spot in the European Ryder Cup team with his second place.

He said: "When Tiger got five or six clear he was going to be hard to beat and when someone like him gets that far in front you are not going to catch him. So my goal was to finish second, get more world ranking points and try and boost myself." *AFP*

TIGER Woods hits 36 consecutive greens in regulation before visiting the bunker on the 12th.

Woods to go on a holiday after victory

CHANDLER'S CROSS, ENGLAND—GOOD news for the rest of golf: Tiger Woods is going on holiday.

A streak that began 10 weeks ago on the sun-baked links of Hoylake reached six straight US PGA Tour victories on the rain-drenched fairways north of London on Sunday when Woods won the American Express Championship. He became the first player in tour history to win at least eight times in three seasons.

Threatened only by the weather that twice delayed the inevitable, Woods closed with a 4-under 67 for an eight-shot victory over Adam Scott of Australia and Ian Poulter of England.

"He's dominating the game," Scott said. "It's not the first time he's done it, either."

The trophy in hand, Woods had one foot in a courtesy car that was ready to take him away when he took a few questions from the BBC. After playing seven times in the last nine weeks, he was eager to get home to Florida.

"I'm getting away for a little bit," Woods said. "As far as golf, I've had enough of it for a while."

Largest margin

This might have been his most dominating performance since the streak began at the British Open in July, and not just because the eight-shot victory was his largest margin since winning by 11 at the 2003 Bay Hill Invitational.

Woods had such control over his game that he was third in driving distance and fifth in driving accuracy, missing only 12 fairways all week. And during one stretch, he hit 36 consecutive greens in regulation, a streak that ended when his approach on the 12th hole drifted left and into a bunker for his only bogey of the final round.

One other streak ended on the last hole of the tournament—it was the first time all week he failed to make eagle on the 567-yard closing hole at The Grove. His chip from just short of the green scooted by the cup and stopped a few feet away for a tap-in birdie that put him at 23-under 261.

"This was a fun week," he said. "I hit the ball really well—all 72 holes, really. It's fun when you can control your golf ball that well."

In a week remembered for the death of Byron Nelson, it rekindled curiosity whether Lord Byron's record in 1945 of 11 consecutive victories really is untouchable.

"It's still a long way away," he said with a laugh. "If you look at it, I'm barely halfway. What he did was absolutely remarkable, and I'm just thrilled that I've been able to win six in a row twice."

Woods won the final four US tour events in 1999 and his first two starts in 2000 to match Ben Hogan (1948) for the second-longest winning streak on the US PGA Tour. *AP*

Mexico, Jamaica book World Cup slots

MIAMI—MEXICO AND JAMAICA booked their places at December's World Cup in Barbados after finishing first and second at the Nations Cup qualifying tournament in Aruba on Sunday.

Mexican duo Esteban Toledo and Octavio Gonzalez headed the field at eight-under-par 276 after firing a one-under 70 on the final day of foursomes at a blustery Tierra del Sol Golf Club.

Jamaica's Peter Horrobin and Delroy Cambridge, who finished level with Venezuela's Carlos Larrain and Miguel Martinez at six under, clinched the final spot for Barbados after winning a two-hole playoff.

Horrobin and Cambridge produced the best foursomes round of the day with a sparkling 67 that featured seven birdies.

Overnight leaders Paraguay, represented by Marco Ruiz and Fabrizio Zanotti, had to settle for fourth place at four-under 280 after dropping three shots over the last two holes for a 76.

"With all teams preparing better each year, the task of making it to the World Cup is a difficult one," Gonzalez said.

"We are very happy about our success this week. But it was tough, especially with the wind blowing as strong as it did every day," added the Mexican, who made his World Cup debut in Malaysia in 1999.

Horrobin, who also played at the 1999 World Cup won by US duo Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara, was elated after Jamaica's rousing performance in the last-day foursomes.

"This is the greatest feeling of them all, to represent your country in a world-class competition," he said. "I'm so happy we made it."

The 24-team World Cup will be on Dec. 7-10 at The Sandy Lane Resort, Barbados.

Welsh pairing Bradley Dredge and Stephen Dodd will defend the title they won by two strokes last year in Portugal. *Reuters*

Gonzales wins anew

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Jayson Gonzales posted his second straight win in as many rounds to share the lead in the 19th International Chess Open Es Vermar being held in Mallorca, Spain.

Handling white, Gonzales beat Vitalina Tolkachova after 22 moves of a Queen's Pawn Opening-Prie Attacks on Sunday night to bolster his bid for a third grandmaster result that would make him a full-fledged GM.

Gonzales will face top seed and co-leader GM Lazaro Bruzon in the third round.

Also with 2.0 points are GM Tomas Oral, GM Sergei Krivoshey, GM Viesturs Meijers, IM Georgious Souleidis, IM Mauricio Vasallo, IM Martin Senff, IM Mohamed Tissir, Robin Swinkels, Jason Roig Squar, Robert Ris and Pedro Barcelo. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Gomez opens bid

FORMER NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMpion John Paul Gomez opened his bid in the 2006 World Junior Chess Championship in Yerevan, Armenia, last night. The 20-year-old mechanical engineering student at De La Salle University finished in a tie for 18th to 30th places in the same event five years ago in Greece. This year's event lured 88 players, including Chinese GMsWang Yue (Elo 2626) and Wang Hao (2610). Gomez, of Biñan, Laguna, is seeded 47th. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

FINAL SEASON STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	Pct
NY Yankees[y]	97	65	.599
Toronto	87	75	.537
Boston	86	76	.531
Baltimore	70	92	.432
Tampa Bay	61	101	.377
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**Pct**
Minnesota[y]	96	66	.593
Detroit[x]	95	67	.586
Chi White Sox	90	72	.556
Cleveland	78	84	.481
Kansas City	62	100	.383
WEST	**W**	**L**	**Pct**
Oakland[y]	93	69	.574
LA Angels	89	73	.549
Texas	80	82	.494
Seattle	78	84	.481

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	Pct
NY Mets[y]	97	65	.599
Philadelphia	85	77	.525
Atlanta	79	83	.488
Florida	78	84	.481
Washington	71	91	.438
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**Pct**
St. Louis[y]	83	78	.516
Houston	82	80	.506
Cincinnati	80	82	.494
Milwaukee	75	87	.463
Pittsburgh	67	95	.414
Chi Cubs	66	96	.407
WEST	**W**	**L**	**Pct**
San Diego[y]	88	74	.543
LA Dodgers[x]	88	74	.543
San Francisco	76	85	.472
Arizona	76	86	.469
Colorado	76	86	.469

x-Clinched Playoff Spot
y-Division Champ
INFOGRAPHICS LOUIE BACANI

Minnesota Twins clinch AL Central crown

DETROIT—THE MINNESOTA Twins closed out the season with a 5-1 win over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday to capture the American League Central crown and avoid a first-round playoff meeting with the New York Yankees.

There were double celebrations in the Minneapolis Metrodome as the Twins Joe Mauer banged out two hits to become the first catcher in American League history to capture the batting title.

The Twins, who had trailed the Tigers by more than 12 games in May, started the day deadlocked with the Detroit atop the AL Central and had to wait until the Tigers' 12 inning 10-8 loss to the Royals was confirmed before popping the champagne.

Despite the loss, the Tigers clinched the AL wild card to set up a meeting with the Yankees in Game One of their division series on Tuesday in the Bronx.

The Twins, meanwhile, will open at home Tuesday against the AL West champion Oakland Athletics.

After spotting the defending World Series champion White Sox a 1-0 first-inning lead, the Twins took control with a three-run burst in the fourth on an RBI double from Justin Morneau and a two-run homer by Torii Hunter.

Mauer went two-for-four with a run scored to finish with a .347 batting average to edge the Yankees' Derek Jeter for the crown.

In Detroit, the slumping Tigers entered the final game of the season mired in a four-game losing skid and needing a victory over the Royals to take the division.

Roaring to a 6-0 lead after three innings, the Tigers and their supporters were poised to celebrate a title until the Royals scored four times in the ninth to send the game to extra innings.

The Royals then capped the comeback with a game-winning RBI single from Esteban German and a bases-loaded walk by Emil Brown to add an insurance run in the 12th.

The Tigers sent all-star starter Kenny Rogers (17-8) to the mound for the last two innings but the left-hander was mauled for two runs on three hits and three walks to take the loss. *Reuters*

Padres wrap up NL West division title

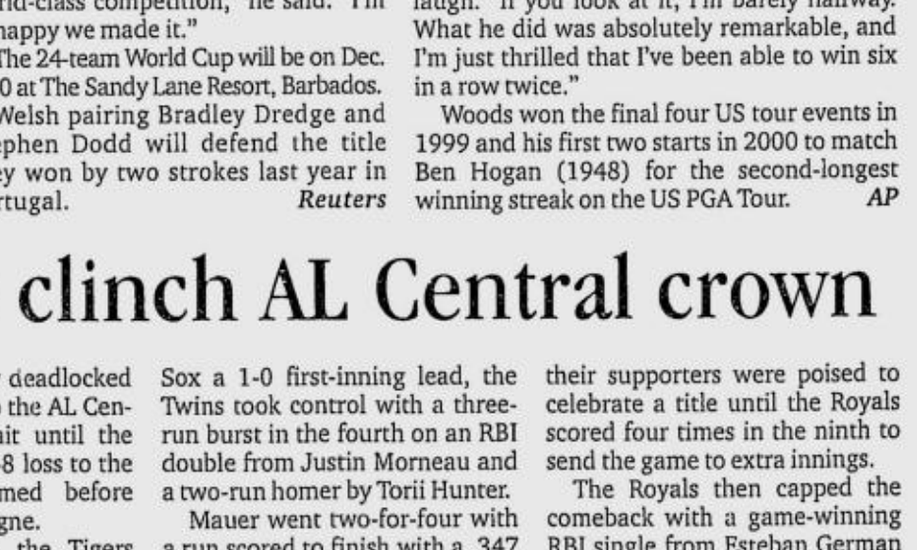
PHOENIX, ARIZONA—THE SAN Diego Padres survived a ninth-inning scare here Sunday to wrap up the National League West division title with a 7-6 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Adrian Gonzalez and Mike Piazza combined to batter Cy Young candidate Brandon Webb in the early frames as the Padres got the win they needed to finish in front of the Los Angeles Dodgers and secure home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The Padres entered Sunday tied with the Dodgers for the top spot in the NL West. The Dodgers posted a 4-3 win over the Giants in San Francisco, but San Diego held the tiebreaker by virtue of winning the season series.

With the victory, San Diego will host NL Central champion St. Louis on Tuesday. Los Angeles will travel to New York for a matchup with the Mets.

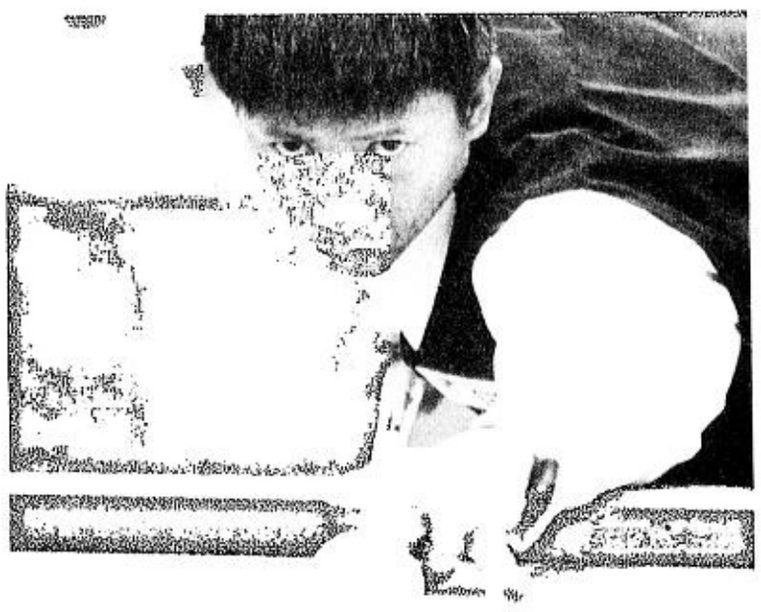
Gonzalez reached on a two-out single in the first off Webb and scored on a double by Piazza for a 1-0 lead. He opened the fourth with a single and advanced to third on another two-bagger by Piazza. After Webb struck out the next two hitters, Geoff Blum singled in two runs, Josh Barfield singled and pitcher Woody Williams plated a third run with a base hit. AFP



MARCO Scutaro (right) of the Oakland A's steals second base in the fourth inning against Maicer Izturis of the LA Angels of Anaheim. The A's won, 11-10. AFP

SPORTS

Luat falls at the last hurdle



A WIN SHY: Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat settles for second place.

RODOLFO "BOY SAMSON" LUAT FINALLY TASTED DEFEAT IN THE game that counted most on Sunday (Monday morning in Manila) and settled for second place in the 2006 US Open 9-ball championship at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The 49-year-old Angeles City native moved within a victory of completing an unbeaten run to the title, only to take an 11-6 loss to European ace John Schmidt, who clinched the other championship slot from the losers' bracket.

Luat, who won the Taiwan leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour, earlier ousted 2004 US Open champion Gabe Owen, 11-10, in a semifinal clash from the winners' group.

The loss dropped Owen into the losers' bracket semifinals where Schmidt waited for him after besting Dave Broxson, 11-5. Schmidt also posted a similar 11-5 win over Owen to get a crack at Luat.

The win was worth $40,000 for Schmidt in this prestigious and longest annual event on US soil.

Luat consoled himself with the $15,000 runner-up prize after failing to duplicate the victorious feats of Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes in 1994 and Alex Pagulayan last year.

Owen ended up third and Broxson fourth.

Schmidt actually proved to be the scourge of Filipino bets in the tournament. On the way to the losers' bracket semifinals, he eliminated Ronnie Alcano, 11-8, then Antonio Gabica, 11-4.

Luat set the pace early in his duel with Schmidt, taking 2-0 and 4-2 leads. From 4-all, Schmidt used two breaks and runs and clever safeties to open up a 7-4 advantage that proved decisive.

Aside from Luat, Pagulayan, Alcano, Gabica, other Filipinos who participated in this event were Ramil Gallego, Edwin Montal, Ramon Mistica, Santos Sambajon, Lee Van Corteza, and Gandy Valle. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Cristy raps PFF anew for missed Asian tourneys

By June Navarro

RAMOS: All they have to to is ask

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL OFFICIAL Cristy Ramos said the country failed to measure its progress in the world's most popular sport again because the Philippine Football Federation neglected to send teams to two international tournaments.

The former Philippine Olympic Committee president took local football officials to task after the Philippines missed the events sanctioned by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (Fifa).

Both regional age group events for women's football were organized by the Asian Football Confederation of which Ramos is the chair of the women's committee.

"Being critical of the PFF is my job," said Ramos, the highest Filipino official in the Fifa and the AFC. "I don't understand why the PFF missed those tournaments."

Ramos said the PFF took for granted the registration deadline for the Asian Under-16 (May 12) and Asian Under-14 (July 16).

Ramos also criticized the PFF last year when it missed the Aug. 31 registration deadline for the Asian Under-19 tournament. Officials pleaded for reconsideration with the AFC to no avail, forcing them to disband the team, which had trained long and hard for the event.

"I'm willing to sit down with them (PFF officials) any time, anywhere but they don't want to talk to me. I wonder why," said Ramos, a former women's football star who later became the president of the local women's football group.

The Philippines is ranked 195 in the world and No. 44 out of 45 countries in Asia, with Guam occupying the tailend of the rankings.

"I am willing to do what I can to help the PFF and local football," said the daughter of former President Fidel V. Ramos. "All they have to do is 'ask."

36 firms on tap as golf show unwraps Oct. 20

NEW ARRIVALS FROM THE FACTORIES OF the world's biggest equipment and apparel manufacturers will be showcased in the forthcoming Philippine International Golf Show on Oct. 20-22 at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The organizing Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines said that most, if not all, local distributors of the major golf brands are participating in the three-day show and preparing promotional gimmicks.

GDAP members Acro Industries Development & Construction Corp., Aetna Enterprises, Antel Landholdings Inc., Atendido Marketing, Besa's Shoes, Dunlop Slazenger International, Electrobus Consolidated (Callaway), Gainers Marketing Corp., Golf King, Golf Pro Int'l Ltd., Golf Depot (Ping), Kart Plaza Mfg., Yamaha Golf Car, Mizuno (Masters Sports), Nike Golf (Pacsports), Raymundo's Trophies and Sculptures and Wilson (WS Sports, Inc.) are among the 36 companies joining the show.

Richie Macapagal, exhibit chair, said that visitors to the show, which is marking its 11th edition, can expect great deals from the major brands plus myriad activities.

These include fashion shows, seminars on turf care to be conducted by the Philippine Turfgrass Association and promotions to introduce new golf clubs and real estate projects here and abroad.

The show has also drawn the support of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines, the Professonal Golfers Association of the Philippines and the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

The GDAP will also honor the Golf Personality of the Year, an award given to people on the local golf scene who made the most impact in the sport in the past year.

For inquires, call Fairs and More Inc. at 8451324 or 7596680 and look for Sweet or Karen, or e-mail info@fairsandmore.com.ph.

BUSINESS

Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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SM group hikes stake in EPCIB to 59.7%

189.88M shares bought for ₱17.47B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RETAIL TYCOON HENRY SY YESTERDAY COMPLETED THE PURchase of an additional 25.7-percent stake in Equitable PCI Bank through a series of transactions at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Thirteen cross sales at the bourse involving 189.88 million EPCIB shares were executed at P92 each or a total of P17.47 billion with the SM group as the buyer.

The deals raised the SM group's stake in the country's third biggest lender to 59.7 percent from 34 percent, although still technically short of the 67 percent needed to vote on a merger between Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank and EPCIB.

Sources told INQUIRER that the Social Security System (SSS) was not among yesterday's sellers, but it agreed last Friday to sell its 25.8-percent stake in the bank to SM Investments Inc. under SM's tender offer to all EPCIB shareholders.

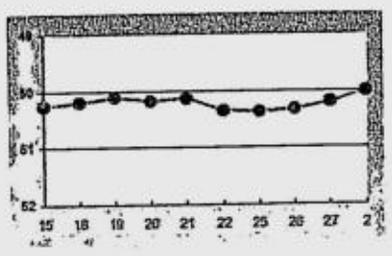
The sale of the pension fund's stake is contingent on the resolution of a pending court case relating to the disposition of the SSS stake in EPCIB.

The sources added that the Romualdez

SM GROUP/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.010 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 2, 2006

¥118.29 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 2, 2006

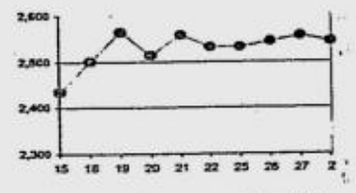
GOLD: **$602.20-602.70**

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 29, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on profit-taking

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.55-percent lower yesterday on profit-taking in selected stocks, with sentiment hit by concerns over the possible economic impact of Typhoon Xangsane, dealers said.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

The typhoon killed at least 76 people and left millions without electricity and drinking water, as well as causing major damage to agricultural land and key infrastructure.

The composite index fell 14.02 points to 2,542.69, off a low of 2,517.84 and a high of 2,554.07.

However, gainers beat losers 45 to 34, with 47 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 2.6 billion shares worth P7.39 billion.

STOCKS/ B2

JANUARY-AUGUST

Privatization raises ₱867M

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS exceeded its target of generating P500 million this year from the privatization program following the sale and lease of major state-owned firms, a report from the Department of Finance showed.

The report said the government has so far collected P867 million in the January-to-August period as proceeds from partial payments from the sale of big-ticket and minor state-owned assets.

Major government-owned pieces of property privatized this year included the former International School campus in Makati City, the Manila Gas lot in Pandacan, and real estate holdings in Japan.

Fiscal authorities had expected to easily surpass this year's privatization target since it was a conservative estimate. They said the government had to set conservative revenue targets from privatization because collections would depend on whether there would be interested investors.

Finance officials have projected that the government could generate at least P2 billion from privatization this year as efforts were ongoing to sell other major state-owned assets.

The government decided to intensify its privatization program to help boost its revenues and help achieve the fiscal goal of a zero budget deficit in 2008. The government said it would sell state-owned assets that are better run by the private sector.

PRIVATIZATION / B3

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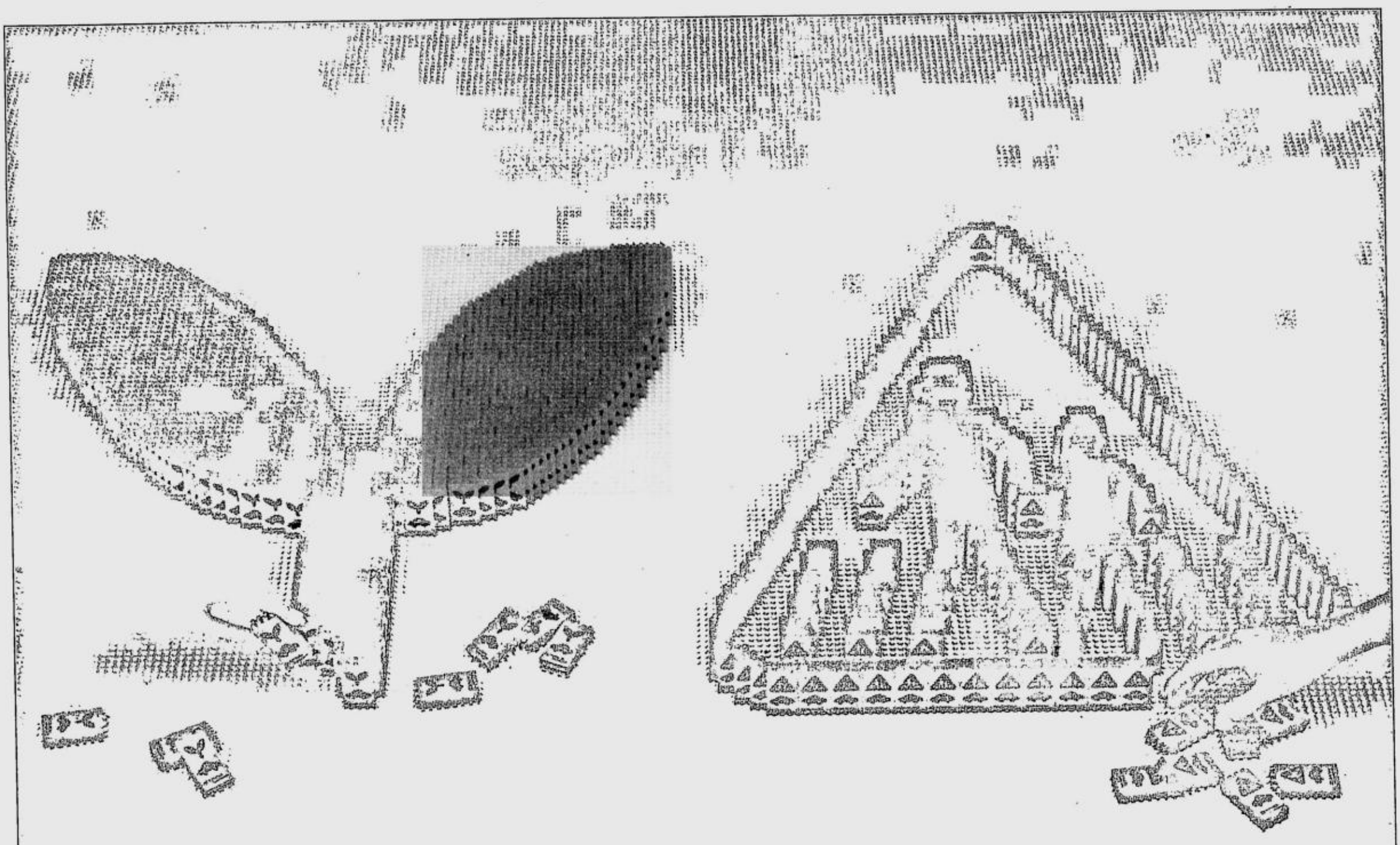
Dow nears all-time peak /B3

Diving fish production raises alarm /B6



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TOYOTA
moving forward

Sun Life pre-need sales up 681%

Company seeks to hit No. 1 spot in less than 5 yrs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SUN LIFE FINANCIAL PLANS INC. (SLFPI) yesterday said its pre-need business had posted a 681-percent increase in sales in the first seven months of the year to P420 million from P53.8 million in the same period last year.

The amount represents "initial cash brought in" or the first premium payment, the industry's most relevant indicator of sales growth, the company said.

SLFPI's aggressive sales expansion now gives it a market share of nearly 30 percent, inching closer to industry leader Prudential Life, it said.

Sun Life Financial-Philippines (SLF) president Lorenzo V. Tan said the company was "well on its way toward achieving the corporate goal of reaching the industry's top spot."

Tan said he was aiming at bringing Sun Life Financial's businesses, including pre-need, to the number one spot in their respective categories in the next five years.

"The way our pre-need business is growing, we might get to our goal earlier than scheduled," he said.

Sun Life Financial, in a statement, said actuarial experts were predicting that the company's pre-need arm would grab the industry lead by the end of this year, after consistently recording triple digit growths in the past 12 months.

Tan attributed SLFPI's exceptional performance to "a highly successful marketing campaign that effectively supported the company's traditionally strong sales force."

The company is focusing more on the class C and overseas Filipino workers markets to further expand its market share.

SLFPI chief operating officer Rizalina Mantaring said in a statement that the company was "in the process of reinventing some of its products and services and make them cater to the needs of these new target groups."

Garbage canned

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FIVE DAYS AFTER MILENYO, MANY streets of Metro Manila are still littered with leaves and branches from broken and fallen trees. Again, FIVE days!

How long does it take to clean up the streets, anyway? My mother used to clean up our entire yard right after a typhoon in less than an hour.

Missing again are those private, contracted garbage trucks on which our beloved city governments spend billions of pesos of taxpayers' money every year.

If you talk to the "contracted" garbage guys, they will tell you that the dead foliage is not part of their contract. They only haul garbage, period.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what we get for multimillion-peso contracts.

***

That other place made famous by "short-time" motels, none other than Pasay City, may yet add to its distinction the recent suspension of its officials.

Early last month, Interiors Secretary Ronaldo Puno suspended Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad (aka Peewee), Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 councilors.

Such a wholesale suspension of city officials never happened before. And so what do we have here—a conspiracy or what?

The Trinidad camp is waging a PR campaign to project the suspended officials as victims of politics, operating on the media line that the mayor is an opposition stalwart.

Sure, such a line can attract sympathizers, considering that the DILG secretary himself is a known political henchman of this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

But like it or not, Ronnie Puno only enforced the order of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, who found a "strong" documented case against Trinidad and company.

It involves—what else—garbage! Thus, those 12 officials of Pasay City may earn the distinction for wholesale canning by the Ombudsman due to a long standing problem in this country called garbage.

It seems that, in 2004 and 2005, the Pasay government forgot to hold public bidding for the city's garbage collection contract worth P230 million a year. Not a single public bidding for two straight years!

The mayor and the members of the city council simply renewed the contract every six months with the same lucky companies.

They were LEG Hauling Services, Excellent Transport Services, Solid Waste Alternative Technology, RM Maintenance Services, and Greenline Envirotech Philippines.

The Ombudsman noted that public bidding would have been prudent for such a "gargantuan" amount involved in the contract.

So where is the political persecution in all that?

On the contrary, it actually took a lot of courage for Gutierrez to order the suspension. For one, she was up against some influential public officials. Well, in this country, it's probably true that women have the b...s.

Still, down here in our *barangay*, the guys don't think that the whole affair should not end in the suspension of the city officials.

For what will happen after the six-month suspension—back to recycled garbage contracts, is that it?

That's why the city's acting mayor, Councillor Allan Panaligan, must act fast in the next six months. For one, he can perhaps correct the flaws in the garbage contract by holding a public bidding once and for all.

Also, he can perhaps tell us more about the other anomalies in the city government that we have been hearing about for some time now.

That's the purpose of the suspension, right?

***

"Freedom of expression" is the defense offered by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales for and in behalf of those huge billboards.

And so, boss, there is nothing that this cute administration can do about them?

I mean, it's not as if this cute administration is the champion of freedom and human rights.

The point is, boss, when we talk about the billboards, we are not only talking of the rights of the companies using those billboards the size of aircraft carriers, but engineered only as runway for kites.

The question is whether or not the billboards are already doing the public harm. I think we all know the answer.

Meralco, for instance, had a hard time restoring power in large parts of the metropolis, thanks to the damage to transmission wires from fallen billboards.

I think Meralco also owns part of the blame. Those billboards are lighted, meaning, they use electricity.

Why did Meralco give them the connection, for instance, knowing fully well that in the past, not only a few billboards collapsed during strong typhoons and damaged high voltage transmission lines?

***

Does this country need another multinational PR firm? The US-based Weber Shandwick apparently thinks so.

Weber Shandwick is the offspring of the consolidation some five years ago among three old and large PR firms in the United States, namely, Weber Worldwide, Shandwick International and BSMG Worldwide.

It is opening an office in Manila, its 16th venture in Asia, which is headed by Norbert Garrett, who by the way is (shhh) a former senior CIA official.

Moreover, serving as CEO and president of Weber Shandwick in the Philippines is lawyer Mike Toledo, who was the spokesperson of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 2, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40	41	40	40.5	2,113,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59	58.5	59	2,381,300
China Banking Corp.	690	690	680	680	5,480
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	1,780,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75.5	75.5	69	69.5	2,155,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	41.5	41	41.5	388,100
Philippine National Bank	33.5	34	33.5	34	600
Phil. Savings Bank	43	43	43	43	2,200
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	51.5	50	50	97,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45.5	45	45.5	31,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	3.7	4.1	3.7	4.05	884,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	285,000
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.44	4,810,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	50	49	50	2,278,200
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50	51	50	51	810,100
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.75	19	19.75	187,600
Manila Electric Co. B	29	30	28.5	29.5	2,368,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.1	8.9	8.9	3,360,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.15	4,415,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	0.99	256,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,020,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	41,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35	34	34.5	430,600
RFM Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.6	1,210,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	203,000
San Miguel Corp. B	75.5	76.5	75.5	76.5	288,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.5	2,900,600
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	780,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.84	1.9	1.84	1.88	6,466,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	7,356,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	130,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4	4.2	3.9	4.15	1,780,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.61	87,940,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	3,300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	29,000,000
Ayala Corp.	470	470	460	465	509,190
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	260,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	5,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	481,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	40,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.93	560,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	91,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.25	1.26	4,204,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.8	389,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.7	519,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	140,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6	6.2	6	6.2	239,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.2	1.2	1,381,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	10,800,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	510,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	40,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	70,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,500,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	252.5	249	252.5	354,590
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	451,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	3,190,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	250,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.25	14.25	14	14	10,465,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	4,187,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,040,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.75	169,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	15,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.54	11,910,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.1	1.02	1.08	16,853,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.58	1.62	42,078,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	570,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.66	0.68	0.65	0.66	430,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.9	15,224,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	574,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.22	2.22	1.1	1.1	51,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	3,160,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	202,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.5	7,752,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	27,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.26	1.32	1.26	1.32	6,448,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1075	1080	1070	1070	49,260
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	4,028,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2195	2255	2195	2250	445,840
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	1,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	2,400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	105,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	330,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.75	17	16.75	16.75	260,200
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	110,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.02	10,493,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	500,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	2,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.06	482,000
Paxys Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11.25	1,266,700
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.1	6.5	6	6.4	1,770,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.2	6.5	6	6.4	2,119,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	70,200,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	319,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.245	2,810,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	720,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.02	0.021	1,016,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.027	0.024	0.025	430,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	405,600,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.75	3.85	3.75	3.75	3,634,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.5	20.5	20	20	16,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	1,020,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.3	20,670,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	21,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	74,900,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1.02	1	1.02	400,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	110,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10	9.7	9.7	131,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Prel) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Prel Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Prel Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	2,129,000

Stocks down ...

From page B1

"A lot of businesses likely suffered losses in the widespread power outage in the last four days. Communication lines were also damaged," said Ron Rodrigo of Unicapital Securities.

"Investors took this situation as an excuse to take profits," he said.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), which supplies electricity to Metro Manila and nearby provinces, said power has been restored to about 94 percent of its franchise area.

Fallen trees and other debris has however slowed down restoration work, it said.

Meralco's A-shares ended 50 centavos higher at P19.75, recovering from losses early in the session. Its B-shares were steady at P29.50.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the most actively traded stock, fell P20 to P2,250. *AFP*

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Dow nears all-time peak

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THIS IS THE DIRTIEST ARTICLE I HAVE EVER written, as I haven't been able to take a shower for four days. I am writing this at night under appalling conditions as there is no electricity or water but I don't want to let my readers down. I am prepared for every eventuality and have a jar of fireflies as well as glowworms. These give just enough light for me to be able to write. I am using phosphorescent ink, which is invisible in daylight but shines in the dark. Unfortunately for my secretary, she will have to find a dark cellar in order to read it and she will have to type it by instinct.

As I always use my credit card, I carry little cash. All the ATMs are offline or have run out of money and the shops are taking cash only. In fact, one has a notice, "In God we trust. Everybody else must pay cash." So the only food we have is what is in the refrigerator and that is going bad. For the last three days, I have only eaten baked beans and the neighbors are getting wind of it. Water was not a problem as I left two buckets outside during the heavy rain. Unfortunately, one blew away and came down near Cape Kennedy. Nasa mistook it for the spaceship until an observer yelled, "bucket!" There was total confusion because the Filipino technicians thought he said *bakit*. This morning I showered and shaved and no longer look like Bernanke.

* * *

Historically, the third quarter in the United States is the worst, yet this year the S&P 500 rose 5 percent to a 5 ½-year peak while the Dow rose 4.5 percent and got within 5 points of its all time high in 2000. While the Dow has gained 9.4 percent this year, the Nasdaq has only risen a miserable 2.6 percent and is 55 percent below its 2000 high when tech stocks sold on P/E ratios of up to 500.

The second quarter GDP was revised downward from 2.9 percent to 2.6 percent and it looks as if the economy will slow to 2 percent next year, in line with Europe and far below the expected 3.5 percent. Consumer spending in August rose 0.1 percent but adjusted for inflation, it actually fell. Inflation rose 4 percent (too high) and core inflation, which excludes food and energy, rose 2.5 percent, which is just about acceptable for Bernanke who has a target of 2 percent.

Everyone is now looking to the Fed to cut interest rates in the spring but I think that they are too optimistic and I still do not rule out a rate hike before Christmas. In that, I am a minority of 1. The Senate is getting ready to impose a 27.5-percent tariff on Chinese imports unless they let the yuan appreciate but the Fed is against this and hopes to persuade China to let the currency float more freely. The fall in house prices and in the price of fuel is likely to keep interest rates on hold for the moment.

The PSEi was getting ready to test the 2600 level on Friday, Sept. 30, which is a quarter day. Unfortunately, the typhoon struck on Thursday and closed the market thereby preempting fund managers from pushing up their favorite stocks. Nevertheless, the index closed the quarter at a high level so I doubt that fund managers were too upset. The damage done to the crops in Bicol might end the current rally, as it would tend to indicate a rise in food prices in future months.

As the market was only open for two days since the appearance of my last article, there is little to write about so I will amplify my recommendation of URC a few weeks ago. The company manufactures a wide variety of food snacks under the brand name Jack and Jill. Its launch of C2 cool and green tea has been a huge success though Nestlé has introduced its own brand of green tea. URC has recently gone into poultry and Rush Fitness Water. It has started exporting C2 tea to Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The company has been growing at a steady 20 percent a year and net profits were P1.87 billion in 2004, P2.4 billion in 2005, P3 billion estimated for 2006, P3.7 billion estimated for 2007 and P4.4 billion estimated for 2008. Earnings per share fell sharply this year due to an IPO at P18, which diluted earnings considerably but raised a pile of cash. As the capital is expected to remain unchanged now that liquidity has been improved dramatically, earnings per share should resume its 20-percent growth rate next year.

The shares have been as high as P24 so the IPO caused the shares to underperform as the underwriters and traders who bought the shares at a discount took their profit. For months, there has been continuous foreign selling, which ended last Monday. On Tuesday, foreign brokers bought a net P10 million worth of shares and on Wednesday, this had ballooned to P60 million. I believe the right time to buy URC is now but it might not move for another week. I do not own any shares in the company mainly because my wife spends all my money.

The company put its pile of cash on deposit in US investment grade bonds and suffered a substantial loss as interest rates rose. Since then, interest rates have fallen so the loss should be fully recovered in the third quarter. This pile of cash is an embarrassment and the company might well pay a special dividend to stockholders.

If you cast your mind back to MEG, the same thing happened. A large amount of stock was offered at P1.38. Initially, it rose to P1.50 but fell back on continuous selling that continued for about two months. I told all my subscribers to buy at P1.40 and I sold at P1.88 because that was the previous high. Since then, the stock has barely moved though eventually it will undoubtedly go higher.

The same thing will probably happen to RLC. After dealings start on Oct. 6, there may be an initial surge but I expect weeks or months of profit taking, particularly as two-thirds of the shares were sold, not by the company but by existing stockholders. Liquidity will improve dramatically but earnings per share will be diluted this year but will increase thereafter.

Gold had seven rising sessions during which time, it reached $610. Profit taking brought it back to $600 but I hope we have seen the worst. Gold shares were better today with APX up 40 centavos to P6.40. If you go to the Crew Gold website, you will see a 35-page report by ABG Collier. The main news is that the four veins being explored can be mined to three times their initial width without much loss of ore grade. In fact, the average of 9 gms per tonne compares favorably with the estimated average of 6 gms per ton. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Inflation seen at 5.7-6.4%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate likely softened further to 5.7-6.4 percent in September as the strong peso helped temper consumer prices, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

Inflation, which measures the rate of increase in the prices of basic goods and services, peaked at 7.6 percent nationwide last January and February following the implementation of the higher value-added tax rate. It has since eased to 6.3 percent in August.

"Actual inflation is expected to ease further given (stable) domestic oil and food prices alongside a stronger peso," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The peso, which has appreciated by more than 6 percent since the start of the year, yesterday breached the 49:$1 level. (See story on page 1.)

The government's inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee, for its part, had scaled down its inflation forecast for this year to 6.9-7 percent and further to 4.3-4.8 percent for next year. The earlier inflation forecasts were 7.3-7.9 percent and 4.3-5 percent, respectively.

The DBCC said it believed the impact of the expanded VAT would have been fully absorbed this year. The elections next year are also seen having little effect on prices since inflationary pressures from election spending have been minimal since the Edsa Revolution in 1986.

Development Bank of Singapore, in a recent commentary on the Philippines, said the inflationary impact of the 2-percentage-point increase in the VAT rate early this year had fizzled out faster than anticipated largely because of benign demand-side pressures.

Singapore's largest bank has also lowered its inflation forecast for the country this year to 6.6 percent from 6.8 percent, and next year to 5.5 percent from 6 percent.

"Slowing inflation should provide room for the BSP to lower interest rates," DBS said, noting that the BSP had shifted in its rhetoric and was now openly discussing the possibility of interest rate cuts.

Privatization . . .

From page B1

The government targets to trim the budget deficit to P125 billion this year from last year's P146.8 billion, further to P63 billion in 2007, and to zero by 2008.

The government sold the 48,832-square meter former IS property to Century Properties Inc. for P1.43 billion after six long years of trying. The government also generated P574 million from the sale of the former Manila Gas property to Robinsons Land.

Other assets targeted for sale soon are television stations RPN 9 and IBC 13, Philippine Postal Corp., Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, and the government's equity in water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Corp.

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Prof. Eduardo A. Morato, Jr. DPA, Guru for ME Batch 14.

Prof. Morato was the Dean of the Institute from 2000 to 2002. His creative curricular program interventions have significantly contributed to AIM's reputation and ranking as Asia's and the Philippine's most innovative graduate school of management education. As conceptualizer and program champion of AIM's Asian Center for Entrepreneurship, he was the chief architect of the Master in Entrepreneurship Program. Prof. Morato is a highly intellectual and skilled guru, having patiently guided and mentored over a hundred entrepreneurs in the past years. His vast experience and involvement in the academe, public and private sectors forms the foundation of his teaching, research and business/community outreach initiatives. He has recently launched his latest book entitled "Strategic Planning and Management", a comprehensive planning and programming process designed for entrepreneurs, leader-strategists, corporate planners and strategy teachers and students at the college or graduate degree levels.

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INVITATION to PRE-QUALIFY and BID for the PROVISION of IT SERVICE DESK OPERATIONS (Contract No. ADB/OAS-2006/049)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding for the provision of IT Service Desk Operations.
2. The Contractor shall provide IT Service Desk Operations that will act as the Single-Point-of-Contract (SPOC) of ADB Staff's Information Technology (IT) related inquiries, problems and technical assistance requests. The IT Service Desk Operations contract will be administered by the Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) and will be composed of Client Help Desk, On-Site Support and Asset Monitoring. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Prequalification documents can be obtained from Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAIS-PC), Room 1636 South, at the above address, from 5 to 9 October 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For inquiries, you may contact Eric de Leon at the above telephone/fax numbers or e-mail address.
4. Invitation to bid will be issued to pre-qualified applicant who pass the prequalification criteria and evaluated as pre-qualified by considering the evaluation criteria, which will be verified by site inspections, if necessary.
5. Only pre-qualified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

(Sgd.) **CECILE L.H.F. GREGORY**
Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services
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(PDI – October 2 & 3, 2006)

INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for sale through public bidding, on an "*as-is-where-is*" basis and as one whole lot, the following National Government (NG) / National Power Corporation (NPC) property:

DESCRIPTION	BASE PRICE
A parcel of land with an area of 1,378 square meters located at Kamagong Street corner Ayala Avenue Extension, Makati City	P 55,120,000.00

Sealed bids will be received on Thursday, October 19, 2006 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and immediately thereafter, the bids shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders at the PMO Conference Room, 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P2,000.00.

In the event that the public bidding becomes a failure, the PMO reserves the right to accept proposals for the subject assets.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Matthew R. de Guzman of the PMO Marketing Department at telephone numbers 817-6331 or 818-4733.

Privatization and Management Office
104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Fax (632) 818-0906 / 818-4591

(PDI – October 3, 4 & 5, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF 12 UNITS LAPTOP/NOTEBOOK FOR THE USE OF LTO CENTRAL OFFICE

The Land Transportation Office, through Fund 151 (MVUC) intends to apply the sum of Nine Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P960,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the procurement of 12 units Laptop/Notebook for the use of LTO Central Office. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 5, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at LTO-Library, East Avenue Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan - Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 - Telefax

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN**
BAC - Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 20 & Oct. 3, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Email: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

BID BULLETIN NO. 1

Bidding for the Sale of NFA Helicopter (Bell Jet)

For the information and guidance of all concerned prospective bidders, due to the suspension of work in government offices last September 28, 2006, the following activities have been re-scheduled as follows:

Pre-Bid Conference	-	October 5, 2006; 2:00 PM
Submission and Opening of Bids	-	October 20, 2006
Submission	-	1:00 PM to 1:45 PM
Opening	-	2:00 PM

Issued this 2nd day of October 2006.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
Administration and Gen. Support Services

(PDI - Oct. 3, 2006)

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS OF J.S. GAISANO, INC.

Please be informed that the undersigned Rehabilitation Receiver shall conduct a creditors meeting to discuss the proposed Rehabilitation Plan of J.S. Gaisano, Inc., with principal address at #76 Damaso Suazo St. corner Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City, with a view of clarifying or resolving any matter connected therewith on October 5, 2006, 9:00 in the morning at the Apo View Hotel Boardroom, J. Camus St., Davao City.

Your presence will be highly appreciated.

(Sgd.) **Gerardo B. Anonas**
Rehabilitation Receiver
Contact No. (02) 632-9649 (Manila)
(082) 224-0808 (Davao)

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 3, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

Purita Ocampo Vda. De Gamboa

January 27, 1912 – October 1, 2006

Her bereaved family: Husband **Paquito** (†); Children: **Chita** and Chito Puno, **Boy** and Tita Javellana, **Dedette**, **Rene** and Bambi Sy, **Lito** and Alita Pulgado, **Freddie** and ChaCha Tagana; Brothers and Sisters: Auring O. Escaler (†), Pitang O. Feliciano (†), Charing (†), Fernando (†), Carding (†), Victoring (†) and Sister Mary Assumption, RGS; grandchildren and great grandson; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Capilla dela Virgen, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

There will be a funeral Mass on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 @ 9:30 a.m. Cremation will follow at Loyola Memorial Chapel Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City at 1:00 p.m.

Please omit flowers. Donations to Gawad Kalinga will be appreciated.

JOSE CERVANTES PASAMBA

of Atimonan, Quezon & Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Creator, his wife FLORENCIA and son OSCAR on 30 September 2006 at the age of 97.

He shall be missed by his children LITA & BOY SANTILLAN, CAROL (widow of FLOY RIGOR), REY, JOCELYN & ONI SIOSON, & DENNIS; grandchildren JIKEE & STEVEN REYES, TINEE, GINO & relatives.

His remains lie in state at Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 04 October 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

FE TRINIDAD CABALLERO

of Kamuning, Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 30, 2006 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved sisters; **Angela** (†), **Lydia Grey**, **Salud Orate** (†), **Rufina**, **Josefina** and **Zenaida Natividad**; brother-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul and to remember her always in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be a requiem mass at 10 a.m. on October 4, 2006 at the Sacred Heart Parish Church in Kamuning, Quezon City. Interment immediately follows at Himlayang Pilipino.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

ROSSANA (Ana) A. MENDOZA

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 30, 2006 at the age of 47.

Her loving husband **Greg**; son **Ariel**; sisters **Virgie**, **Ruby**, **Weng** and **Janet**; brothers **Berlin**, **Rey**, **Elmer**, and **Rockford**; their families, **Ate Shirley**, **Manong**, sisters and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 7, 2006 at the Taysan Memorial Park, Taysan, Batangas, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Col. Jose Rizal D. Dumlao	Chapel 1 & 2	October 5, 2006 after the 8:00 AM Mass	Loyola Mem. Park Sucat, Parañaque
Carlos N. Arabiran	Chapel 6	October 3, 2006 after the 8:00 AM Mass	Holy Cross Mem. Park

Common S.E. Asian market seen in place by 2015

BCDA sets aside more land for housing

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEvelopment Authority yesterday said it had to turn over to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) at least 24 hectares of land as part of its contribution to the National Shelter Program.

BCDA president and chief executive officer Narciso Abaya said the property, located at the Bonifacio Housing and Information Technology (BHIT) Park area, was not a part of the BCDA land for mandatory development into socialized housing.

Abaya explained that under Executive Order No. 70, the BCDA is required to declare portions of its Fort Bonifacio property and its environs as sites for socialized housing and to facilitate the disposal of the lots to qualified occupants and beneficiaries.

The order also created an executive committee to implement its provisions, with a HUDCC representative serving as chair.

"The 24 hectares are over and above the lots that the BCDA is obligated to turn over under EO 70," Abaya said.

He said the pieces of land covered by EO 70 include 48 ha in Lupang Katuparan, 13.08 ha in the Centennial Village area and 35 ha of the BHIT Park area.

"We are turning over the land as part of our social responsibility and to strengthen the National Shelter Program that provides socialized and affordable housing to deserving and qualified beneficiaries," Abaya said.

To immediately implement the donation, the BCDA has, through the HUDDC, requested the committee to prepare the necessary amendments to EO 70.

BCDA is also in the process of picking a private-sector lessee or joint-venture partner for 1.2 ha of prime land in Bonifacio Global City.

BCDA officials said firms represented during the prequalification meeting included Ayala Land Inc.; Cancio Architects and Blue Gate Development Corp.; MegaWorld; Philippine Townships International Corp., and Robinsons Land.; Rockwell Land Corp.; Roxas, Delos Reyes, Laurel and Rosario Law Office, and Sta. Clara International Corp.

ADB says stretching integration to cover whole of Asia will take much longer

By Doris C. Dumlao

A COMMON MARKET FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA as initiated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is feasible by 2015 but it take a much longer wait for the whole of Asia to be ready for a single currency, said Asian Development Bank's expert on economic integration.

Masahiro Kawai, head of ADB's regional economic integration unit and special adviser to the president, said in a press briefing yesterday that stiffer global competition was driving countries toward deeper integration but the adoption of a common currency was also a political, not just economic, process.

"Without a common market, it will be difficult to introduce a common currency, so if ever there will be a common currency in Asia, it will be farther beyond 2020," Kawai said.

Kawai, a former deputy vice minister for international affairs at Japan's Ministry of Finance, yesterday launched the Asia Regional Integration Center website, a portal which tracks the progress of the region's economic cooperation and integration.

"Market-driven integration is very fast and countries which are restricting trade, capital of movements of money and labor are now liberalizing," Kawai said.

He said Asean leaders were likely to formalize by December a roadmap toward an Asean economic community by 2015.

"This is sort of a common market but not like the European common market. Free mobility of labor and money may not be completely there but there will be free trade of goods and services," Kawai said.

He said not all services would likely be liberalized across the region, but there would be substantial liberalization of services and investments.

"Factors that are pushing free trade include pressure of globalization, global competition. In Asia, there are smaller countries that have realized they have to put their resources together to increase productivity, competitiveness and their linkage with the global market, rather than doing it individually," Kawai said.

He said stretching out the Asian integration process outside of Asean would even take longer.

"On the impediments, still some countries have important domestic economic issues to resolve, like in China or some low-income Asean countries. Their financial system is still problematic in terms of regulatory structure, in terms of how the financial institutions operate, the legal environment and risk management capabilities," Kawai said.

"These problems are there and unless countries like China, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia address these domestic issues—the issues are not just limited to the financial sector but the financial sector is a very important sector—it will be very difficult for them to truly open up their market and completely integrate," he explained.

He noted that Asean was now thinking about drafting its charter and defining what role to play and what organization to evolve into.

"Perhaps not only economic but socio-cultural integration community should be formed. So a lot of thoughts are going to be put into the Asean leaders' doorsteps," he said.

Kawai said there was a need to clearly define what the Asean economic community and what would constitute it given ambiguities in the concept.

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Forum of UK eyes LNG facility in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

UNITED KINGDOM-BASED FOrum Energy Plc is eyeing the possibility of establishing a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in the country, following third-party confirmation that its Sampaguita gas find has at least 3.4 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of proven reserves.

Based on the initial results of the company's 3D seismic program conducted earlier in the year by independent consultant Count Geophysics Ltd., at least 3.4 TCF of gas can be found in the Sampaguita discovery.

An extension of the structure to a possible closure of 290 square kilometers could possibly yield 10 TCF of reserves, according to the company's website.

Additional untested sands in the area were also known to contain gas, the company said. Further testing could double the initial reserves estimate.

The Sampaguita gas find likewise contained eight additional leads that could potentially add another 20 TCF of gas reserves in all, the company added. These required further work, however.

"We are extremely encouraged by the results of the seismic program, which confirms that the company has an asset of great potential. We intend to push forward with appraisal at the earliest opportunity to bring this gas field to commerciality," Forum chief executive Russell Harvey said.

"Given the potential reserve size and proximity to the Asian markets, it is an ideal candidate for an LNG facility," he added.

Forum wholly owns geophysical survey exploration contract 101 (GSEC 101), which contains the Sampaguita gas discovery. It covers a 10,630-sq km area west of Palawan in the South China Sea.

SM group hikes stake in EPCIB to 59.7%

From page B1

group's Trans Middle East (Philippines) Equities Inc. has kept its 7-percent interest in EPCIB.

Taking into account SSS's holdings, the SM group will be able to control more than 85 percent of EPCIB and easily effect a merger with Banco de Oro.

It will cost the SM group some P34 billion to purchase all the shares tendered, including those pledged by the SSS.

At the end of the tender offer last Friday, SM Investments said it secured the nod of EPCIB shareholders owning 374.9 million shares or 51.6 percent of the bank.

The sellers included the biggest minority shareholders of EPCIB—the Government Social Insurance System with 13.55 percent, the SSS with 25.84 percent, EBC Investments Inc. with 10.8 percent and other individual shareholders with 1.34 percent.

SM Investments is studying a number of options such as a bond float and the issuance of new shares to raise funds for the acquisition.

A merger between EPCIB and Banco de Oro will create the country's second-biggest banking group with combined assets of P528.6 billion, after Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s P594 billion.

CURRENCIES

October 2, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788892	1.000000	50.2490
Japan	Yen	0.006676	0.008462	0.4252
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476807	1.872000	94.0661
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101250	0.128345	6.4492
Switzerland	Franc,	0.630861	0.799680	40.1831
Canada	Dollar	0.705628	0.894454	44.9454
Singapore	Dollar	0.496971	0.629961	31.6549
Australia	Dollar	0.588418	0.745879	37.4797
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.092664	2.652661	133.2936
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210343	0.266631	13.3979
Brunei	Dollar	0.495411	0.627983	31.5555
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021003	0.026624	1.3378
UAE	Dirham	0.214799	0.272279	13.6817
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.267600	63.6956
Argentina	Peso	0.254277	0.322321	16.1963
Brazil	Real	0.362643	0.459686	23.0988
Denmark	Kroner	0.134135	0.170030	8.5438
India	Rupee	0.017233	0.021844	1.0976
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214024	0.271297	13.6324
Mexico	New Peso	0.071858	0.091087	4.5770
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515077	0.652912	32.8082
Norway	Kroner	0.120861	0.153203	7.6983
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013033	0.016521	0.8302
South Africa	Rand	0.101859	0.129116	6.4879
Korea	Won	0.000834	0.001057	0.0531
Sweden	Kroner	0.107612	0.136409	6.8544
Syria	Pound	0.015197	0.019264	0.9680
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Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000368	0.000466	0.0234

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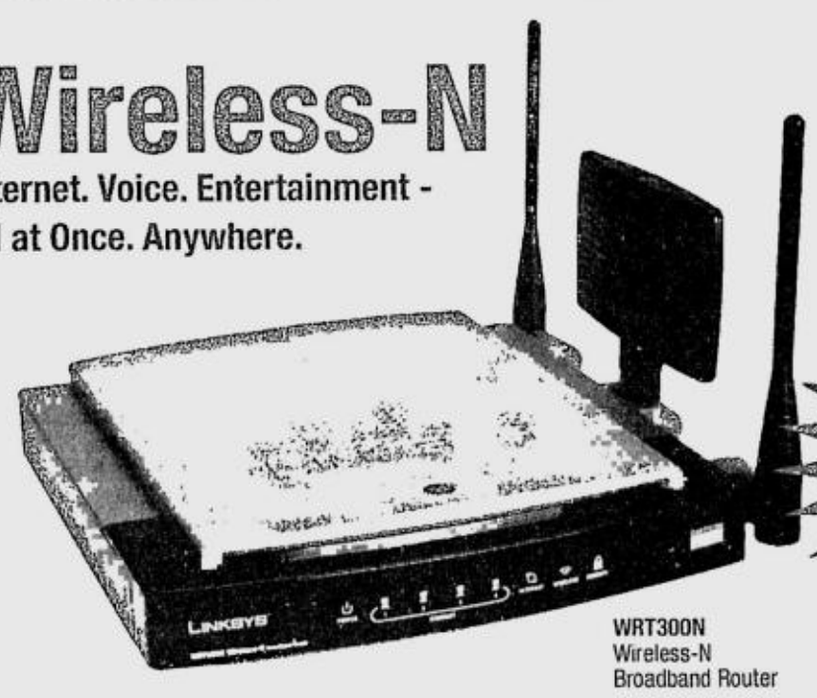
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BUSINESS

Diving fish production raises alarm

Trade pacts, market access offer temporary benefits, says group

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FISHERIES OUTPUT HAS BEEN "declining almost yearly" and expected benefits from agreements like the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement would be temporary at best, according to a group of fishery advocates.

Instead of relying on trade pacts and market access to perk up the fisheries sector, the government should further develop the industry and see to it that these efforts are sustained, said Arsenio Tanchuling, executive director of Tambuyog Development Center.

Manila and Tokyo in September signed the JPEPA, providing two-way access to markets of particular goods including marine products.

"Any gain in market access that the country may have from JPEPA is likely to be temporary since Japan is also negotiating with Indonesia, Thailand and other countries in the region for similar pacts," Tanchuling yesterday said.

Citing 2005 data from the Department of Trade and Industry, Tanchuling said Indonesia accounted for 28.7 percent of Japanese imports from the region. Thailand had 21.4 percent, while the Philippines had 10.6 percent.

Tanchuling said that the government would need to focus its attention on how to sustain fisheries productivity and to gain competitive edge through value adding and improving the quality of local fishery products, instead of merely depending on greater market access.

"In particular, it should give priority on how to develop the capacity of the municipal fisheries sector and its 1.78 million municipal fishers to be able to engage in the export trade with Japan," he said.

The Tambuyog official said lower tariffs provided under the JPEPA would not likely increase the country's fishery exports, particularly shrimp and tuna.

"Despite the already low tariffs imposed by Japan, the country's fishery exports have been on the decline based on data on their annual values from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics," Tanchuling said.

Citing as an example the case of fresh and chilled shrimp products that have had a tariff rate of only one percent in the last three years, he said shrimp exports have been declining almost yearly since it peaked at $128 million in 1996.

Earnings from shrimp exports only reached $52 million in 2005.

"Tuna products show a similar trend, particularly yellow-fin and skipjack tuna, whose five percent tariffs since the 1990s have been reduced recently to 3.5 percent," Tanchuling said.

Tuna exports reached a high of $41.78 million in 1996, but have since declined, reaching only $13 million in 2005.

Under the JPEPA, tariff for fresh and chilled shrimp will be scrapped, while those for other prawn products, currently at 4 percent, are to be removed within five years of the JPEPA. The same goes for yellow-fin and skipjack tuna.

FISHERMEN haul in their catch of yellow-fin tuna in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Tuna exports reached a high of $41.78 million in 1996, but have since declined to $13 million in 2005.

EasyCall urges NTC to cancel regulation dues

EASYCALL COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES Inc. and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) are in a stalemate over the company's request for the commission to cancel the regulatory fees that accumulated since 2001, when the company closed its paging business.

The publicly listed company owes NTC P14.019 million in supervision and regulation fees (SRF) from 2001 to 2005 for its defunct paging business, according to the regulator's assessment.

EasyCall, in a filing with the NTC, asked the regulator to cancel or withdraw the amount.

"With the closure of (EasyCall's) paging operations in 2002, management believes that the parent company has no telecommunications operations subject to supervision by NTC and thus, no SRF should be charged," EasyCall explained.

The company also said that even if it has to pay the SRF, the total should be only P11.2 million for the years covering 2001 to 2005.

EasyCall was registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission in September 1989, primarily to operate a paging business. NTC data showed that there were a total of 789,149 paging service subscribers nationwide as of 1998, with EasyCall cornering 40 percent of the market with 312,786 subscribers.

The company's paging business declined starting 1999, when cell phone companies started offering text messaging services. Business got so bad that, in 2000, EasyCall started replacing its paging services with Internet access, data center and web business solutions. Two years later, the company closed its remaining paging operations in Metro Manila and Cebu to cut losses from its deteriorating paging base.

Riza T. Olchondra

As India gets too costly, BPOs now turn to RP

By Riza T. Olchondra

HIGH SALARY AND TRANSFER rates in India are making that country less appealing to business process outsourcing (BPO) firms—a trend which the Philippines can take advantage of by accelerating IT training among students, according to an executive of a US firm.

Jim Sanderson, vice president and chair of applications developer Lawson Software, said that India can readily provide large companies with 10,000 people or more due to the huge number of IT professionals in that country.

However, BPO costs in India are rising 15 percent compared to relatively stable costs in the Philippines.

"We see that small to medium sized companies looking to hire a few hundred to a few thousand professionals with 3 to 5 years' experience have a better environment in the Philippines," Sanders yesterday told the INQUIRER.

He also noted that the attrition rate in India is about 30 percent, compared to 10 percent or so for the Philippines.

"A new Indian IT person expects to be promoted within six months and (to get) a 20-percent raise in six months, then another 20 percent on his first year, and so on," Sanders said. "If he doesn't get it, he will go to another company. Being a software developer, rather than being a project-related company, we (at Lawson) can't have that kind of attrition."

Sanderson said his company is optimistic that its investment in Filipino technology workers will result in a long-term partnership with the local workforce.

The potentials and skills of the workers were what drew them to the Philippines, preferring it over other countries in the region, he said.

Sanders warned, however, that the Philippines must make IT education and training more accessible to young Filipinos in order to cash in on the BPO trend, and to keep other countries such as China from catching up.

He said that China has started emphasizing English language classes from grade schools to universities to make its massive workforce more attractive to foreign companies.

In 15 years or so, this generation of English-speaking, IT-trained Chinese professionals could be luring companies away from both the Philippines and India.

"English proficiency and people skills, while important, would not be enough when that time comes," Sanders said.

"The Philippines must increase the talent pool of professionals with more advanced IT and English skills in order to continue attracting BPOs and other foreign-invested companies."

Mideast firm to fund Ifugao solar power effort

By Abigail L. Ho

MIDDLE EAST PETROLEUM Services (MEPS) will fund the installation of solar power home systems in selected communities in the Ifugao province.

The project is being undertaken jointly by MEPS and the state-run Philippine National Oil Co.

However, the agreement between the two companies did not specify how much the MEPS grant would be.

Joint undertaking

The electrification effort is part of the PNOC's Solar Homes System Distribution Project, which the state firm aims to complete by mid-2007.

The project, a joint undertaking by the PNOC, Department of Energy and Shell Solar Philippines Corp., involves the sale and distribution within the next five years of 15,100 solar home systems to various areas around the country.

The areas covered include parts of the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, and Mindanao, particularly Basilan, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga del Sur.

Providing financial support for the project is The Netherlands government through a 5.592-million euro (P378.6-million) grant, representing 60 percent of the total equipment cost.

This grant, PNOC president and chief executive Eduardo Manalac had earlier said, allowed the project proponents to sell the solar home systems at a 60-percent discount.

Now on its fourth year, PNOC said that there are now P210.6 million worth of solar systems installed under the project.

As of August, 10,551 households in various regions in the country have already benefited from the project, the state firm said.

There are about 4,500 units left to install, the PNOC added.

Energy initiative

"PNOC is confident that with the entry and participation of MEPS—a company that has been in the oil exploration business for 15 years now—in this project, the above target will be achieved," PNOC said in a statement.

The Solar Homes System Distribution Project is part of the PNOC's new and renewable energy initiatives.

It supports the energy department's rural electrification program, as well as the government's social reform agenda.

RESIDENTS appear to be comforted by the presence of solar power panels that provide electricity to households in their remote barangay. As of August this year, 10,551 households in various regions in the country have already benefited from the electrification project of the Philippine National Oil Co. Funding for the project comes from various government and private sector firms abroad.

Gov't spending slid due to lower interests

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET and Management said that the government's underspending by some P63 billion in the first eight months of the year was partly due to the lower-than-expected interest rates brought on by the improvement in the country's fiscal condition.

The government was programmed to spend P739.5 billion in the eight-month period, and not P83.2 billion as earlier reported.

But from January to August, the government actually shelled out only P676.4 billion.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya noted in a statement that the government paid P17.6 billion less than what had been programmed to pay for interest on its loans and other liabilities.

Government data showed that, instead of paying P239 billion for interest payments as scheduled in the government's fiscal program for the first eight months, it only had to spend P221.4 billion because of the decline in interest rates.

For instance, the average rate of the benchmark 91-day Treasury bill stood at only 5.3 percent in January to August.

This was lower than the range of 6.4 to 6.5 percent assumed by fiscal authorities in the setting of the 2006 fiscal program.

But the budget chief admitted that government agencies have weak absorptive capacity. The agencies were not able to use some P14.2 billion worth of Notice of Cash Allotments (NCAs) as of end-August.

The tedious process of procurement was said to be one reason why the government agencies were unable to absorb the funds.

Also, some agencies were overly cautious in their spending for fear that they might break the stringent rules of the Commission on Audit, Andaya earlier said.

But according to Andaya, the weak absorptive capacities of line agencies are already being addressed.

He announced earlier that the line agencies would be directed to adopt a uniform electronic procurement process, which requires that bidding and other procurement procedures be done online.

Andaya also said expenses for payroll, pension and other personal services were lower-than-programmed despite the P1,000-a-month pay hike earlier approved for government workers.

This was because of the delay in the hiring of policemen and teachers. The additional budget for the new hirings was originally included in the 2006 budget program.

He also attributed the underspending to the failure of Congress in passing the P1.053 trillion national budget, forcing the government to adopt the 2005 General Appropriations Act, whose ceiling is about P100 billion less than the scuttled budget bill.

"The absence of congressional authorization has curtailed our spending," Andaya said. "That's why we are banking on the signing of the P46.9 billion supplemental budget to give us more spending room."

With the imminent passage of the supplemental budget bill, Andaya said spending would rebound in the few remaining months of the year although not enough to catch up the entire spending program for the year.

The budget chief said a fraction of the supplemental budget would be used to replace public infrastructure that were damaged by Typhoon "Milenyo."

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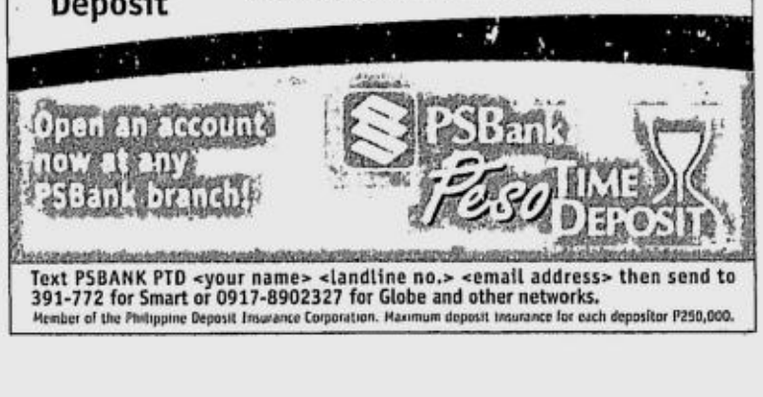

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
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More mind-body techniques for everyday life

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

Part two

THE SIMPLE PRINciple of "relax, focus and breathe" is the foundation of most mind-body disciplines like yoga, Pilates and tai chi.

Other techniques that synergistically work hand-in-hand include mindfulness, non-judgmental observation and visualization.

You don't have to be an expert in meditation and you don't have to be a yoga or tai chi master to benefit from these practices.

Here's how to apply them to your everyday life.

Mindfulness

Being mindful or being acutely aware of what is happening moment by moment within yourself and your immediate surroundings, helps to relieve stress because you temporarily forget about what happened yesterday and what will happen tomorrow. This is what they mean when they say "live in the present moment."

If you sit quietly with or without your eyes closed while practicing the "relax, focus and breathe" technique, you are actually practicing the art of meditation even if you don't call it that. Being mindful of how the breath goes in and out of the body helps to quiet down your mind.

But mindfulness isn't just for meditation. Mindfulness can turn mundane daily routines like taking a shower or stretching in bed when you wake up into mind-body experiences.

When you take a walk through your neighborhood, be mindful of what your body is feeling and how you are breathing. Feel the breeze against your skin, listen to the rustling of the leaves, admire colorful flowers and "smell the moment."

"Mindful eating" can help you lose weight. Studies have found that people who eat slowly and pay attention to the taste and texture of their food are satisfied with less food.

Being mindful during exercise isn't only for yoga or tai chi practitioners. It is also appropriate for people who do "other" types of exercise like lifting weights. Keeping your focus and awareness on your muscles and breath as you pump iron significantly improves the quality of your workout.

Joseph Pilates said, "To shape the body, you have to shape the mind." Experienced bodybuilders couldn't agree more.

Non-judgmental observation

One of the most difficult things about meditating is trying to keep the mind free of intruding thoughts. This can make meditating a stressful experience for some people, which in turn makes them abandon developing this healthful practice.

Instead of trying to block thoughts from entering your mind, allow them to come in and pass through but without dwelling on them. Don't put any judgment—positive or negative—to your thoughts as they come in and go out. Acknowledge them but don't attach any emotions. Just observe them impartially.

You can use this technique to prevent stress from building up when you start thinking about what you have forgotten to do or deadlines you have to meet. Recognize these things without scolding yourself for being forgetful or inefficient. Worrying or berating yourself doesn't accomplish anything except create unnecessary stress and anxiety.

Visualization

If you are a visual learner and thinker, visualizing your breath coming in and going out while you meditate can help you to calm your mind and emotions.

Whenever painful feelings surface, visualize them as a balloon that floats away or as a cloud that dissolves.

Athletes recognize the power of the mind-body connection and hone their skills by visualizing their game. Do the same thing when you have an important presentation or meeting coming up.

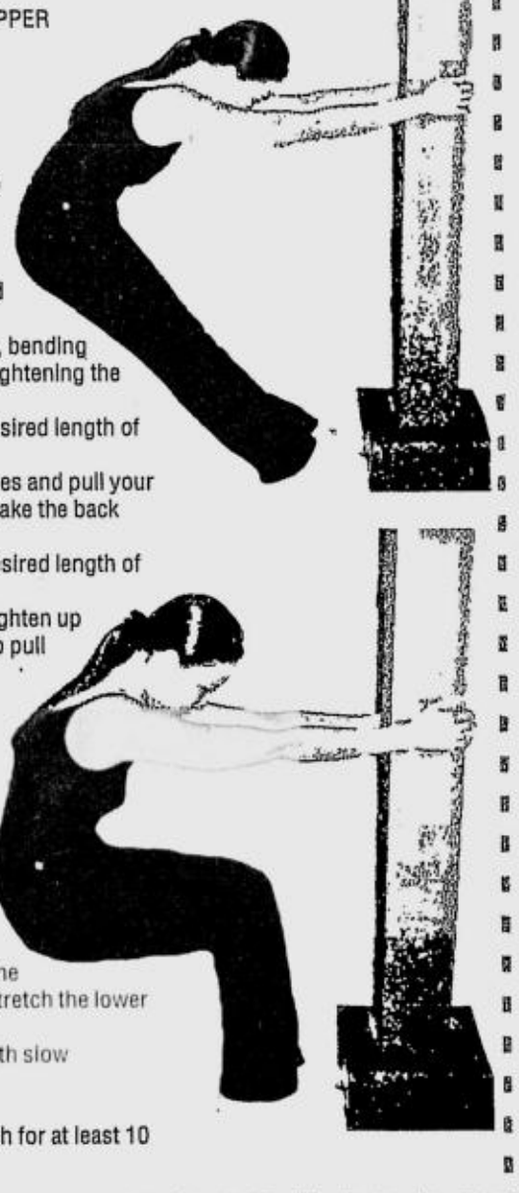
Before going to sleep at night, visualize yourself flawlessly giving the presentation as you go through each point you want to impress on your audience.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info.

CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Pole back stretch



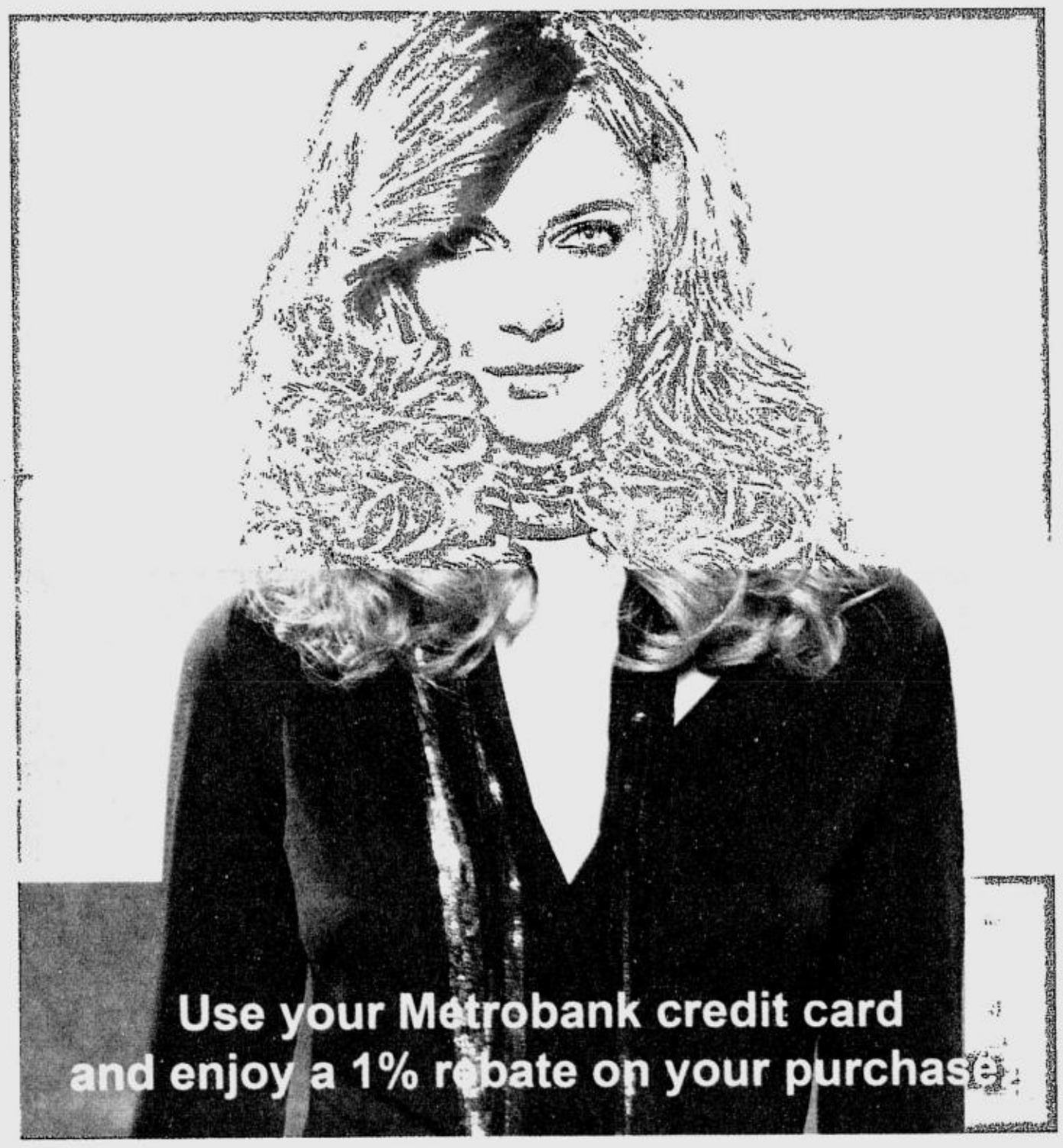
STRETCHES THE UPPER and lower back

Equipment:
A pole or railing

Exercise technique:
1. Stand up close to a pole with your toes touching the base. Wrap your hands firmly around it.
2. Pull backward, bending at the hips and straightening the arms.
3. Stay for the desired length of time.
4. Bend your knees and pull your tailbone under to make the back round.
5. Stay for the desired length of time.
6. Carefully straighten up using your hands to pull you up.

Performance tips:
1. Focus on lengthening the entire body when the legs and arms are straight.
2. Focus on tucking the tailbone under when the knees are bent to stretch the lower back.
3. Keep the breath slow and rhythmic.

Repetitions:
Hold each stretch for at least 10 seconds.



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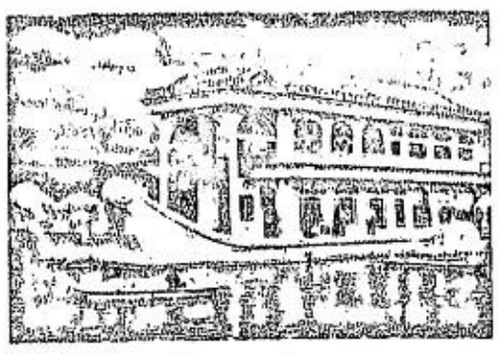
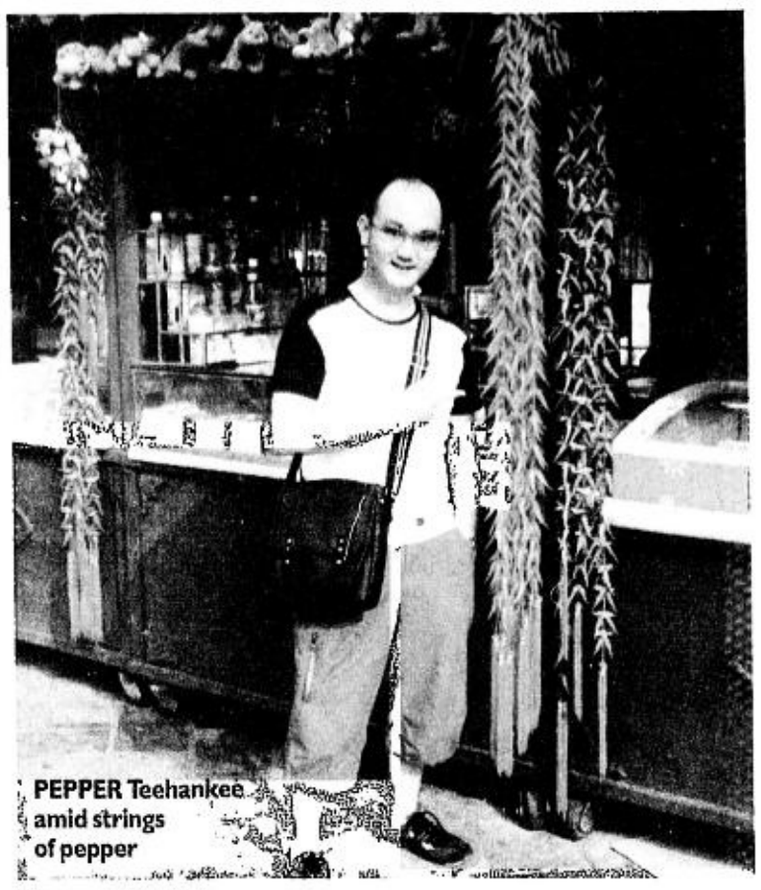
SOME of the Summer Palace's attractions: The impressive Jade Belt Bridge...



THE FANTASTIC Marble Boat...

AND THE LUSH Lotus Garden



PEPPER Teehankee amid strings of pepper

As thrilling as the first time

Part two

JUST LOOKING AT THE GREAT WALL AS we drove close to Badaling gave **Pepper Teehankee** an unexplainable thrill. "I've been dreaming of this, like, forever. And now here I am."

Dreams do come true... many times, *palanggas*.

In the past five years, some friends and *moi* have gone up this fascinating, awesome wall. I'm proud to say I reached by foot the eighth and last watchtower in the part of the wall that is open to the public.

This time, **Pepper T.**; my INQUIRER pal **Anne A. Jambora**; Marco Polo Plaza Cebu's pretty, intelligent, cybersmart assistant director for sales, feminine **Emelyn Mauhay**; and *moi* took the cable car to get to the upper part of the wall.

Since I have vertigo, I can't look down so, needless to say, it was a nerve-wracking ride. I'll take the stairway any time, *palanggas*.

Over a million workers built the more than 6,700-km Great Wall of China. Started in the seventh century, it was completed in 1644.

The walls were used in ancient China as a gigantic defense to protect emperors from conquerors. It may not be Mount Everest but reaching any watchtower is mind-blowing and leaves you with goose bumps.

Next stop for our group after the wall was the postcard pretty Summer Palace. Of the total space of 290 ha, water occupies 220 ha, divided into three scenic areas. The palace was built in 1764, but burned down in 1888.

The Empress Dowager Cixi rebuilt the imperial garden. Reconstruction took 10 years. Scattered on the hill and around the lake are different gardens, palatial halls, bridges and endless varieties of plants.

The Summer Palace, *palanggas*, is the crème de la crème of the traditional art of Chinese gardening. *Naturellement*, after doing the hottest sights, a trip to Beijing would not be complete without the shopping. So, without batting an eyelash, we were on Silk Street.

From artwork, clothes, food to electronics, Beijing shopping centers offer a wide array of items. You get designer apparels, paintings by up-and-coming Chinese artists, and the most bizarre food items.

Most shops accept credit cards and American dollars. In most stores, lots of haggling won't hurt.

For entertainment, our group dashed to the Red Theater where we were mesmerized by the most exciting kung fu show in the world. Around 40 fab kung fu artists, their heads shaven, displayed tons of different techniques and styles of the ancient art, while relating a story in seven awesome acts.

It began with a little boy entering an ancient temple, practicing kung fu and Zen until he grew up and became a master and, finally, reached the sacred goal of enlightenment.

The packed theater gave this mind-boggling show a 10-minute standing ovation. Definitely, absolutely a must-see show in Beijing! Show starts at 7:30 p.m. daily. The Red Theater is at 44 Xing Fu Da Jie, Chongwen District.

Beijing is truly a showcase of opulence, grand history and exotic pageantry, where everything is a sight to behold and every experience is a treasure.

Check out the fab Panda Travel Service's China Panorama tour packages. Call 2422585, visit www.pandatour.com.

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After the fantastic show, we rushed to Holiday Crowne Plaza where we all pigged out on the to-die-for excellent choices on the buffet table, before getting ready for our trip back to *Manille* the following day, *palanggas*.

This was my ninth trip to China in the last five years. Whether it's exotic Beijing, cosmopolitan Shanghai, or the shoppers' paradise, Guangzhou, I'm always thrilled like a first-time visitor.

Yes, *palanggas*, China is definitely a most enjoyable, awesome experience.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Whole-day bash

Life, it is said, is a party. Some, the luckier ones, do live each day like it is. For the partying pack on the fast lane, the night started with the super-fun I-On launch of D2N at The Fort.

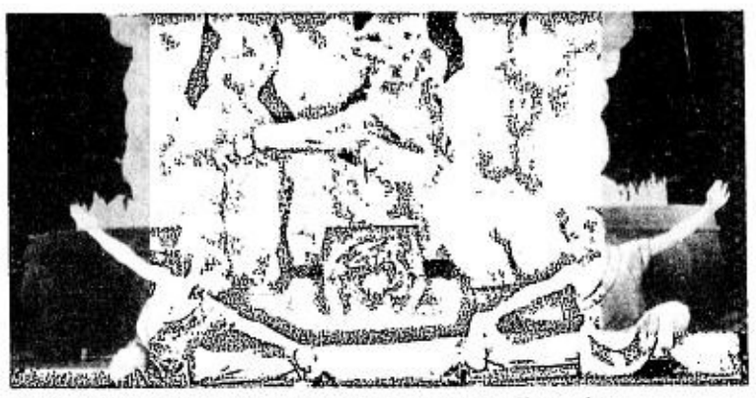
The D2N bash started—would you believe—in the morning with a live fitness exhibition, followed by the awesome *capoeira* by the Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Philippines and a zip-zap exhibition in the afternoon by Planet Zips, dahlings. *Après* the sunset, it was rock and roll time at Embassy, natch.

The big moment was the introduction of the five D2N I-On icons: **Alessandra Tinio, Richie Santos, Rovilson Fernandez, Christine San Diego** and **Owens Sun**.

The action-packed whole-day happening had Fitness First members and fitness enthusiasts dancing away in a marathon of different workout sessions from the Body Jam to the I-On Rockstar and the Retro Groove, *palanggas*.

In the evening, models sashayed on stage with different I-On concoctions, while the musical talents of guests, INQUIRER's Mabuhay gal, **Jenni Epperson**, turned DJ with mega choreographer **Robby Carmona**; and top hip designer **Rhett Eala** got everyone shaking on the dance floor.

Partying Unilab hotshot executives included **Jun Vivar**, corporate vice president for consumer health; and **Alex Panlilio**, assistant vice president for consumer health; together with **Jojo Gaviola**, I-On brand manager; and Revicon line product manager **Shaoi Aquino**, plus oh so many other I-On personas, *palanggas*.



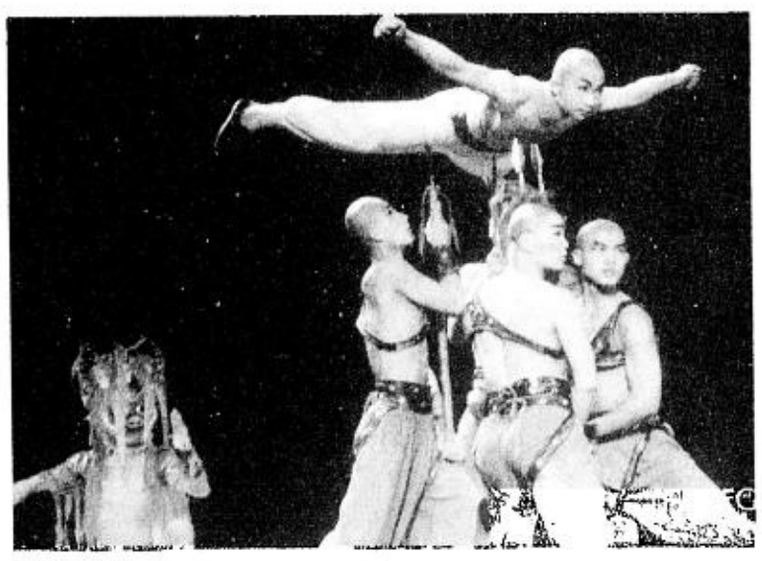
YOUNG students demonstrate their mastery of kung fu.

THE LUXURIOUS Marco Polo Hotel in the new business, financial and shopping district of western Beijing

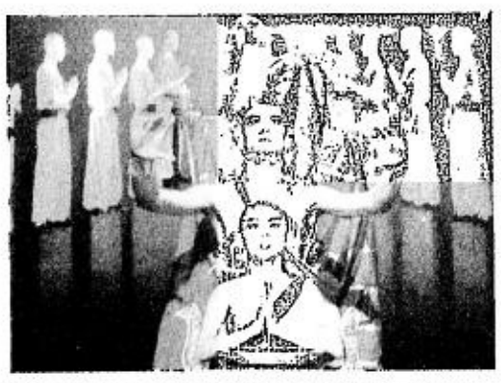
THE TOWER of Buddha Fragrance, specially built for the empress when she became a Buddhist

MARCO Polo's Emelyn Mauhay, with *moi* and PAL's Ria Domingo

AT THE SUMMER PALACE. Pepper T., PAL's Babsie Aragon, Panda Travel Services' Anna Liza Tan and Ria Domingo

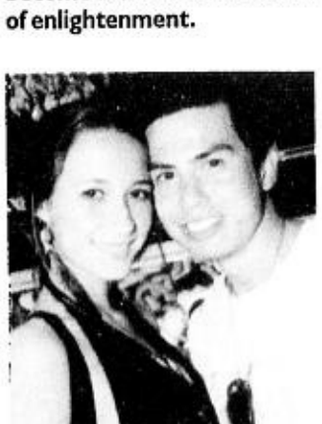


ENDURANCE test for kung fu masters



A LITTLE boy practices kung fu and Zen to become a master and reach the sacred goal of enlightenment.

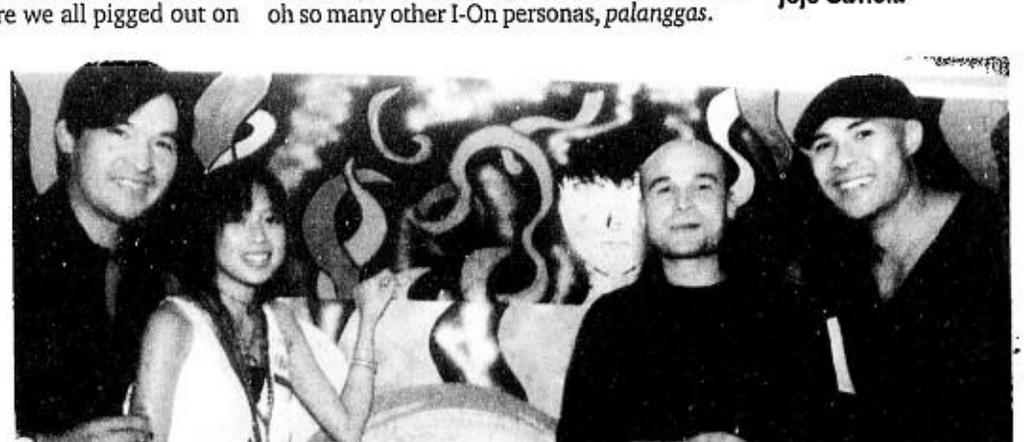
TEST of abdominal muscle strength through kung fu



HEY, GORGEOUS. Tabata Luczay and Vince Canizares

JUN Vivar, Unilab consumer health corporate vice president; with MTV's Cindy Kurleto

GANG of three witty writers: Larry Leviste, DJ Montano and Louie Cruz



PARTYING with the I-On icons: Owens Sun, Richie Santos, Alessandra Tinio and Rovilson Fernandez

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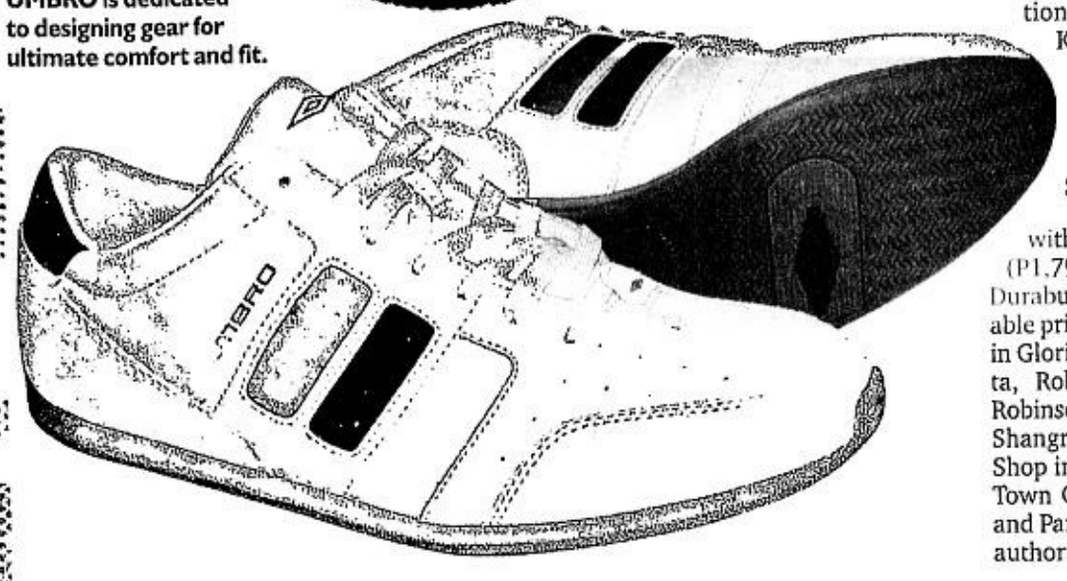

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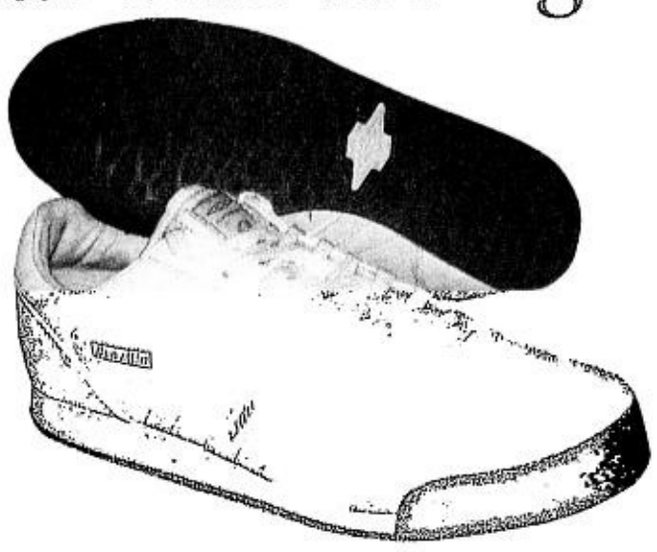
Catch Umbro's new casual footwear with three of its styles—Milan Velcro (P1,795), Motion (P1,795) and Brazilia Durabuc (P1,895)—available at very affordable prices. Visit Royal Sporting House outlets in Glorietta 4, Ali Mall, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Lipa, Robinsons Pampanga, Festival Supermall, Shangri-La Plaza, Isetann-Recto, The Shoe Shop in Rockwell, The Shoe Shop at Alabang Town Center, Why Pay More? Mandaluyong and Pampanga, Ayala Center Cebu, and other authorized dealers.



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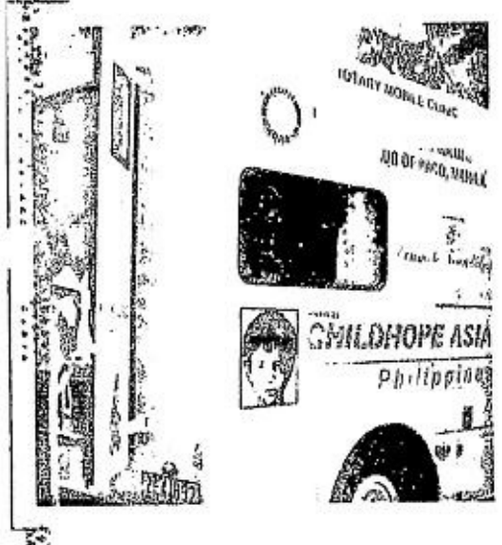
Mobile clinic for NGO



THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU (District 5000) and the Rotary Club of Paco (District 3810) handed over a Rotary Mobile Clinic to Childhope Asia Philippines, a non-government organization that provides education, counseling and protection for Metro Manila street children.

The occasion was attended by District 3810 governor Lynne Abanilla and Rotary presidents from the Paco, Ramon Magsaysay, Manila Metro, Pasay Edsa and Bagumbayan clubs of District 3810; and *barangay* leaders.

The Mobile Clinic will allow Childhope Asia Philippines to implement a Community Primary Health Program.

It is part of Rotary Club of Honolulu's longtime assistance to the Philippines. Total contributions and matching grants to make the project possible amounted to US$52,650.

Consuelo Foundation, which is based in Hawaii, assisted in the project by letting one of its consultants be the lead facilitator in Manila.

Childhope Asia Philippines can be reached at 5634647/5617118.

Cancer awareness seminars set

THE "KEEP ABREAST" CANCER Awareness Seminar will be held Oct. 7, 9 a.m., and Oct. 14, 2 p.m., at the Asian Institute of Management, Makati; and Oct. 21, 9 a.m., at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Ortigas.

The seminars are part of the annual observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October by the Philippine Foundation for Breast Cancer Care Inc. (PFBCI) and Philippine Wacoal Corporation.

The first in the series, now on its second year, was held late September and featured the official launch of the "Keep Abreast" logo. The logo symbolized the commitment of partners PFBCI and Wacoal in providing knowledge and insights on breast cancer.

Seminar speaker was Suzette Andrews, a cancer survivor and founder of the Big C Magazine. She encouraged breast cancer victims to "go on with your life and surround yourself with positive thoughts and people." Glenda Garcia, a breast cancer awareness advocate and volunteer for PFBCI, urged Filipinos to help spread awareness of breast cancer and that there were "hope, cure and, most of all, there's God."

A mini-documentary compilation of testimonials from breast cancer patients and survivors was presented. Participants got free breast checkup. Admission to the seminars is free. Call 8841517 or e-mail philwacoal@wacoal.ph.

Responding to violence against women

BIOFEMME INC., THE WOMEN'S health care division of United Laboratories, sponsored a one-day postgraduate course on "Improving the Health Care Response to Violence" for fellows and members of the the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation) Inc. (POGS).

The activity was part of the 60th anniversary celebration and midyear convention of POGS. The first POGS postgraduate course was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Pasay City.

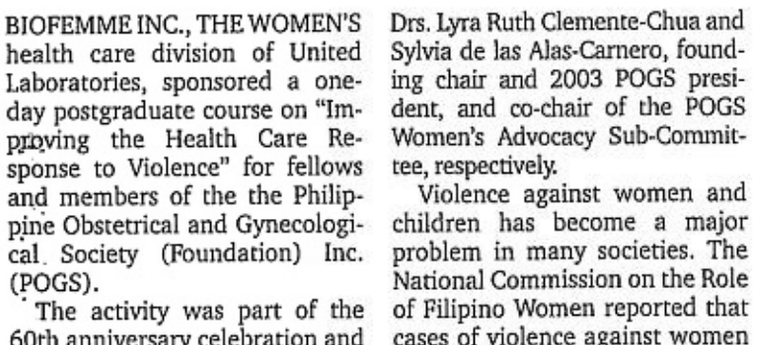
Dr. Susan Pelea-Nagtalon, POGS president; and Dr. Rey H. de los Reyes, POGS chair of the Women's Reproductive Health Advocacy Committee and concurrently chair of the POGS Continuing Medical Education Committee and Midyear Convention, spearheaded the activity.

The course was organized by Drs. Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua and Sylvia de las Alas-Carnero, founding chair and 2003 POGS president, and co-chair of the POGS Women's Advocacy Sub-Committee, respectively.

Violence against women and children has become a major problem in many societies. The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women reported that cases of violence against women increased six-fold between 1996 and 2005.

The one-day course aimed to make the participants understand why domestic violence was a primary health care issue. It taught them how to screen, assess, document and provide primary intervention in cases of domestic violence.

Dr. Clemente-Chua stressed the important role of OB-GYNs as physicians who provided medical care to women.



ADVOCATES of "violence against women as a primary health concern": Dr. Susan Pelea-Nagtalon, POGS president; Dr. Lyra Clemente-Chua, founding chair, POGS Women's Advocacy Sub-Committee; and Susan F. Yumul of BioFemme Inc., the women's health care division of Unilab

If you are overdoing any form of physical activity, remember there is a thin line between exercise and stress

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What supplements and/or vitamins have proven benefits to keep my liver healthy?

Phospholipids and multivitamins as well as silymarine and some liver extracts have shown some benefits as supplements in some patients with *fatty liver* as well as those with acute and chronic liver diseases. However, these compounds are considered supplements and not the main form of treatment for these diseases. Some people take these tablets to protect their liver against the side effects of chronic alcohol intake but this should not be encouraged as it may be mistaken that taking alcoholic beverages on a regular basis is alright as long as you take these pills afterwards. Likewise, people need not take these pills regularly like multivitamins if their liver is perfectly alright.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our three-year medical service provider from Metro Manila. Dr. Ronald Vallar. He specializes in Int-Gastroenterology. Dr. Vallar finished his medicine proper at FEU in 1990. He later took his residency training for Internal Medicine at Metropolitan Hospital and further obtained his subspecialty course for Gastroenterology at St. Luke's Medical Center in 1999. He is a member/fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and Philippine Society of Gastroenterolog. MEDICARD members may avail of his consultation services at St. Luke's Medical Center during Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 12noon & Saturdays by appointment. And at Manila East Medical Center (Angono, Rizal) during Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 4pm to 6pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Lows, highs and in-betweens

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

SOMETIMES, EVEN THE simplest of questions need answering. And, often, the answers to nagging issues are right under our noses.

Here are the questions and some solutions:

Why am I always tired?

There could be a number of reasons why you experience fatigue: physical overexertion, emotional drain, mental overload. Find out what the reason is.

Physical overexertion—The body can only take so much punishment. If you are overdoing any form of physical activity, remember there is a thin line between exercise and stress. Crossing that line will only lead to the "low-batt" syndrome.

In sport, gym work or manual labor, know your limits. For now, learn to rest. Your body requires recharging.

Emotional drain

Very closely linked to the mental aspect of well-being, emotions are directly connected to the mind. Emotional stress due to the inability of people to manage emotions is one of the leading causes of illness.

When you are focused on your feelings, hurts, disappointments, your body withdraws from a life phase. In short, nothing else is more important than your fears, bitterness, anger, etc.

Finally, you neglect your own health by bingeing on alcohol, sugar, drugs, etc. If your state of depression lasts for a few weeks, it's time to see a therapist.

Mental overload—Belaboring problems is counterproductive. Going over problems in your head, as an exercise in finding a solution, may be your usual practice and may be considered good brain work.

But if this is all you do, then you have absolutely given yourself no time or energy to do anything else. Brain overload sets in.

Work is good, but when work takes precedence over the rest of your life that you sacrifice your health in the process, then you are bound to get sick. Learn to take a break.

And, to ease the pressure, you may consider supplements or nutritional upgrade to address general fatigue. Here are some of them:

Zinc—vegetables, whole-grain products, wheat bran, brewers' yeast, pumpkin/sunflower seeds, wheat germ, oysters

Carbohydrates—whole-grain pastas/breads, sweet potatoes

Protein—fish, eggs, soybeans, peanuts, dairy products

Vitamin A—fish, liver, green leafy veggies, butter, egg yolks

Vitamin B complex—yeast, beans, coconut flour

Iron—beef, kidney, liver, clams, molasses, soybean flour

Iodine—seafoods

Vitamin C—citrus fruits, tomatoes, cabbage

Vitamin D—fish-liver oils, egg yolks, liver, sunshine

Supplements—100-mg B complex, twice daily; 2,000-mg B12, morning and afternoon; coenzyme Q10, 30- TO 100-mg daily

How can I achieve a state of calm and well-being? I am always restive, edgy and hyper.

It's all in the mind, as they say. Either that or you are high on caffeine.

Your body is naturally energized by the food/beverages you take. So take a closer look at what you ingest. Energy and calm can only be achieved through the lifestyle we adopt.

Try to quiet your mind, especially your outlook on life. Engage in mixed-body therapies like yoga, tai chi, qigong. Take leisurely walks. Listen to relaxing music. Increase your meditation time to twice a day. Prayer helps to focus your energies, dreams, hopes and fears. Know in your heart that everything will turn out right, no matter what your life situation may be.

Calming regimen

- Three amino acid-chelated calcium and magnesium tablets, three times daily
- B Complex, one to three times daily (50-mg vitamin B tablet each)
- One St. John's Wort tablet with polyphenol complex daily
- Vitamin C, 500-1,000 mg daily

Increase your complex carbohydrate intake because it helps boost levels of the chemical serotonin in your brain, thus making you calmer.

Once in a while I find myself depressed even when there is no reason to be depressed. I'm 35 years old and happily married. What's wrong with me?

Perhaps your diet is sugar-rich. Sugar in refined form, as in cakes, pastries or alcohol, can deplete your body of vitamin B and cause depression. Take a combination amino acids, tyrosine and phenylamine (500-2,000 mg daily). Check with your physician.

Increase your intake of fish, whole grains, green leafy vegetables to calm your mood.

But also ask yourself if your condition has other causes. Maybe something in your life remains unfulfilled.

Your Tuesday affirmation

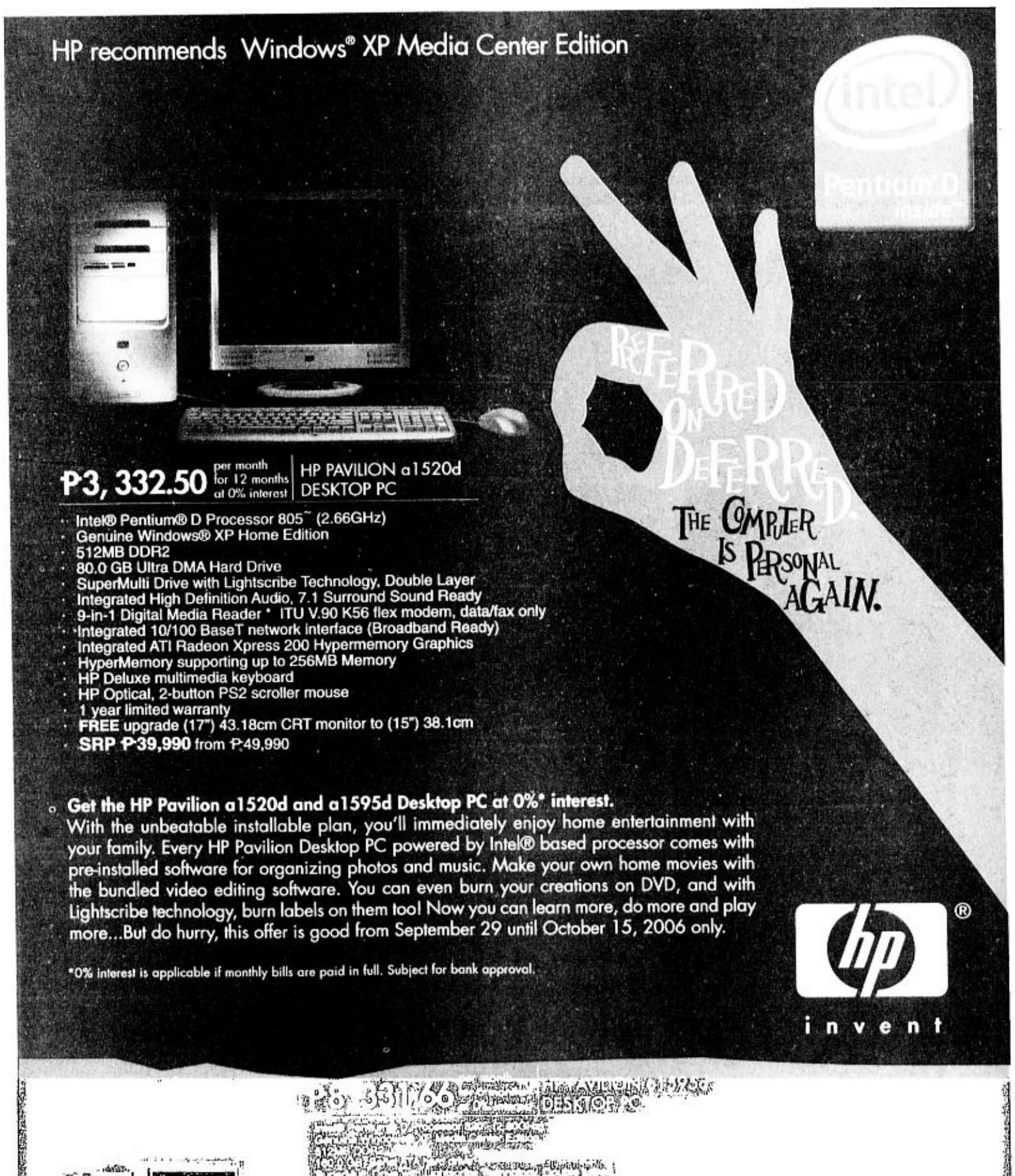
"I am one with the calm light of the setting sun."

Your wellness regimen

Eat a stalk of celery every day. It can energize you as well as calm your senses.

Love and light!

Source: "Vitamin Bible for the 21st Century," by Dr. Earl Mindell



HDI NETWORK bee healthcare products

Bee healthy

HDI NETWORK, FORMERLY High Desert Phils., is an affiliate of the United States' CC Pollen Inc., one of the largest and oldest bee product companies in the world.

Its products include Clover Honey High-Desert that can help the body maintain a healthy digestive tract by improving digestion and bowel movement.

High-Desert Royal Jelly is recommended for people who want to stay healthy, feel and look young. It is also recommended for individuals who want to improve their complexion. Some studies suggest it can also help improve average life span by more than 20 percent. It also helps strengthen the immune system, improve memory, fight fatigue and improve fertility.

HDI Network Phils. Inc. is located at 31/F, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center.

Brushing up for breast cancer campaign

GOODY, THE COMPANY which makes ergonomic brushes, has partnered with breast-cancer advocacy group I Can Serve in the fundraising information campaign "Tickled Pink."

Goody International sales manager Howard Wenbert said the partnership was a natural outcome of the company's having mainly women clients.

Ria Romero, I Can Serve fundraising coordinator, said the partnership was significant as Goody was a worldwide brand catering to women.

Goody had launched "Comfort Meets Cause" in the United States with the breast-cancer organization Living Beyond Breast Cancer "to empower women with tools necessary to be comfortable and have the best quality of life."

It raised funds through sales of Ouchless brushes and hair accessories, and via a celebrity E-bay auction of over 50 limited-edition brushes signed by celebrities like Jennifer Lopez and Hilary Duff, among others.

Icanserve (Information on Breast Cancer and other Services) networks with breast-cancer survivors and breast-cancer support groups in the country to help more women gain access to breast care and information. It also provides special services to help breast-cancer survivors recover and heal more effectively.

Goody offers to breast-cancer survivors its unique Ouchless elastics in dark and light pink. Women can choose between pink and white headwraps or light- and dark-pink scarves.

Romero said in Southeast Asia, the Philippines had the highest incidence of breast cancer.

Visit www.goody.com.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Has broadcast news gone show biz?

Network exec disagrees that there's an inordinate amount of scandal and gossip on air

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IS THERE TOO MUCH SHOW BIZ *chismis* on network news?

Luchi Cruz-Valdez, head of Current Affairs of ABS-CBN, acknowledges that "Star Patrol," the channel's entertainment news segment, is "a resident rater" on the prime time news program "TV Patrol World."

"There is always a high degree of interest in show business news," Valdez admits.

But is there an inordinate amount of gossip and scandal on prime time news?

"Not too much. We feel we're giving viewers as much show biz information as they want to hear," Valdez points out.

She explains that "Star Patrol" comes out twice to thrice per news show, with each exposure running about two minutes.

"Only six minutes of the 45-minute news cast is devoted to entertainment news," Valdez clarifies. "That's just 13 to 15 percent of the entire news program."

"We comply with (general broadcast) guidelines that limit an entertainment story to one minute and 35 seconds to two minutes," says Mario Dumaual, ABS-CBN correspondent for entertainment.

The minutes devoted to show biz, however, can either go up or down, depending on the day's demands.

LUCHI Cruz-Valdez: "Entertainment is legitimate news."

Dumaual explains: "In some days ... when there is really a market demand for stories about controversial stars, the story length extends to over two minutes from the standard. On other days, show biz is low priority and it gets pushed to the back burner in favor of really important national issues."

It's very flexible, Valdez and Dumaual agree.

Suffice it to say that "we are driven by the real objective of a newscast," Valdez says. "'Star Patrol' plays a role in the news program. Show biz is legitimate news. But if it's not too big an entertainment story, we can sacrifice it in favor of hard news. Six-minutes of show biz is not a quota that we have to meet every night."

Dumaual, who has been with "TV Patrol" since its early days in 1987, asserts: "Traditionally, in a mass-based newscast like 'TV Patrol World,' show biz is a staple, just like the other segments."

"We look at it this way: Entertainment news is one way of engaging more viewers to our newscast," Valdez explains.

Valdez is also aware of criticism that "Star Patrol" often becomes a sounding board for the promotion of Star Cinema movies, Star Records CDs and other products of the ABS-CBN conglomerate.

"If ABS-CBN's entertainment arm requests coverage, they admittedly have an advantage because they're also from the same company. And they can easily e-mail us. But we treat [their story proposal] like any other news story. It goes through the same selection process during the daily story conference," says Valdez.

She insists that they are not in the business of plugging ABS-CBN's projects. "Entertainment needs to give us a valid news story, a good angle, an exclusive interview," Valdez said.

The same process is followed on GMA 7 News and Public Affairs, according to Jessica Soho, vice president-News, who told INQUIRER Entertainment: "We instruct our reporters not to make [reports on our network's stars] an outright promo. They should look for a newsworthy angle."

For her part, Valdez claims they don't limit their coverage to their stable of stars. "If we can get as much access to (GMA-7 talents) Angel Locsin and Richard Gutierrez, why not?"

Sam and Toni, make up your minds

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

• IS COMMERCIAL MODEL **Denise Laurel** coming between **Toni Gonzaga** and **Sam Milby**? Denise and Sam happen to have the same manager so they get to see more of each other. They had a kissing scene in their toothpaste commercial.

Knowing Toni, maybe she's just envious of the time Sam spends with Denise but she's not exactly jealous.

Isn't it Sam who gets pangs of jealousy because of Toni's whatchamacallit friendship with **Luis Manzano**? According to those in the know, their closeness transcends the "MU" stage and it can easily evolve into love without their realizing it.

It's high time Sam and Toni make up their minds. Are they going to stay in each other's life or leave each other behind?

• **Zsazsa Padilla** is peeved at people calling her anorexic. Maybe her diet worked too well. She just lost too much weight due to pressure for her role as Zsazsa Zaturnnah. It's no joke to fit into her skimpy costume. Heard that she's having unpredictable mood swings lately. Let's go easy on the "Superheroine." Even heroes need to be rescued lest they self-destruct. Is it true that she got challenged when "Zaturnnah" producer **Mother Lily Monteverde** told her that she's fat?

• An established lounge singer commented, "Sitti is great but I prefer the *areglo* of the songs in Agot Isidro's new album. *Parang mas pinag-isipan. Hindi lang basta ginawang* bossa nova." So who's the rightful Boss & Super Nova when it comes to bossa nova?

• **Hajji Alejandro** and **Rico Puno** brought the house down during the fourth anniversary bash of Merk's Bar & Bistro. Hajji ribbed Rico about his plans to run for Senator: "Your campaign slogan must be... *'Madaling Lapitan, Mahirap Hanapin.'*" Rico shot back: "*Dati kilabot ka ng mga colegiala. Ngayon kilabot ka ng mga nanay ng colegiala!*"

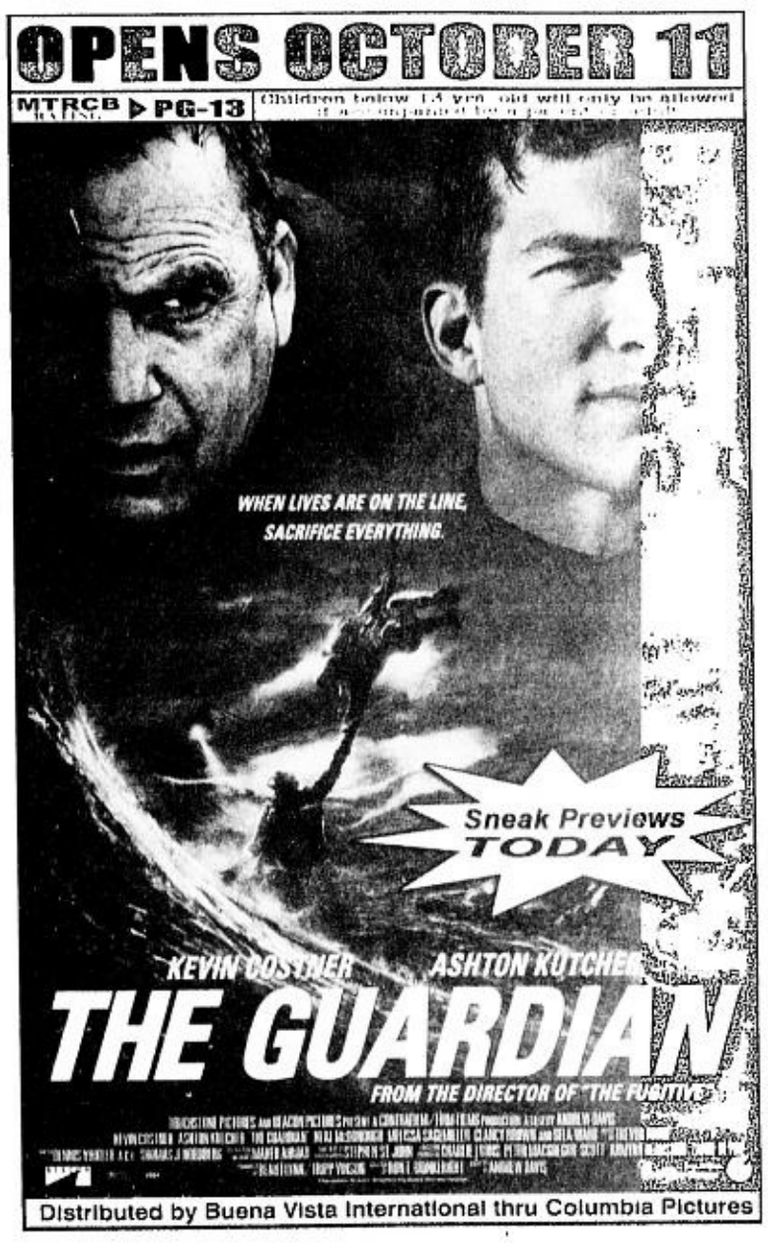
They both haven't lost their charisma. I teased Hajji about his son Ali (Mojofly drummer) being more popular than him now. He smiled, "Improvement of the race." My sentiments exactly when people say the same thing about IC and me.

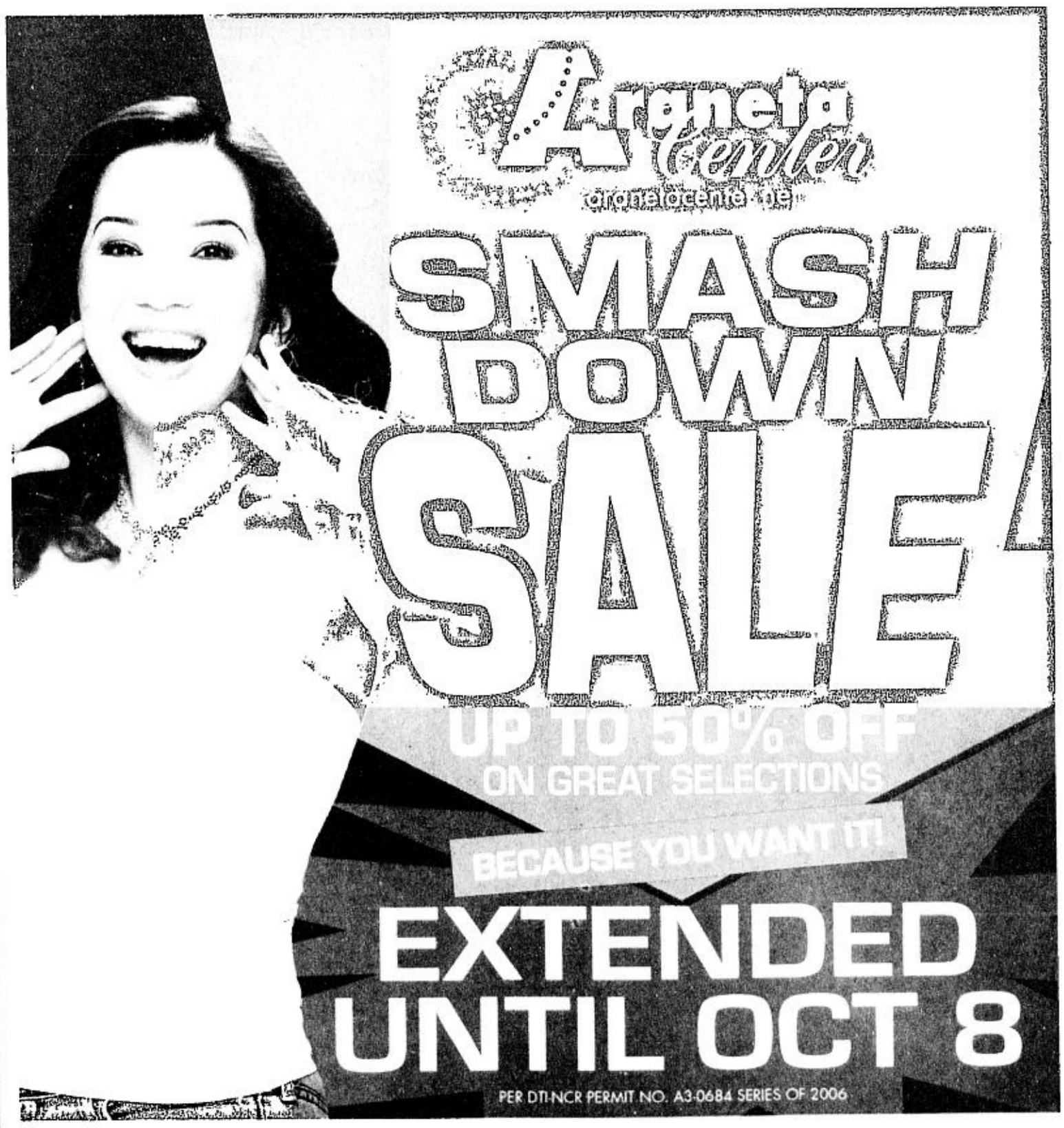
R & R once more

The blockbuster team-up of **Robin Padilla** and **Regine Velasquez** re-ignites in GMA and Viva Films' "Till I Met You" (opens Oct. 11). Regine portrays an ambitious girl (Luisa) who has lost all faith in love. She agrees to marry a very rich old man Señor Manuel (**Eddie Garcia**). The impending marriage doesn't sit well with Señor Manuel's right hand man, whom he has treated like a son, Gabriel (Robin), who instinctively feels that Luisa is only after the Señor's money.

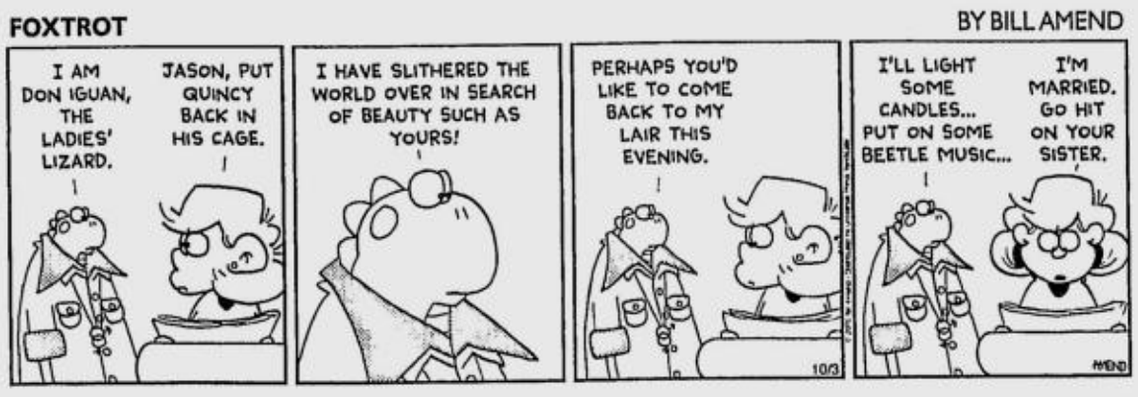
Heard that Binoe requested for several closed door "do not disturb" bonding sessions with Regine prior to their shoots. Hmmm... seems like they had serious internalization of their characters, huh? It suddenly reminds me of the closed door sessions I had with Binoe many contro-

SAM/ D5





FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

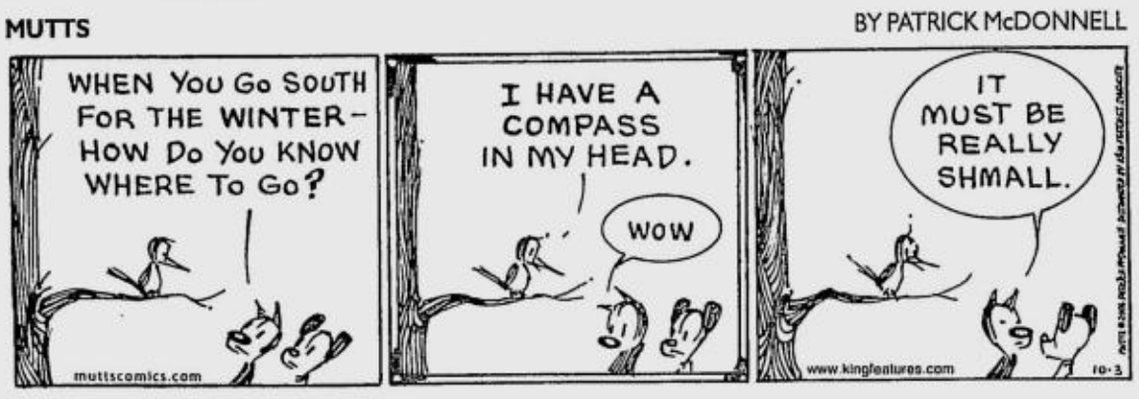


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

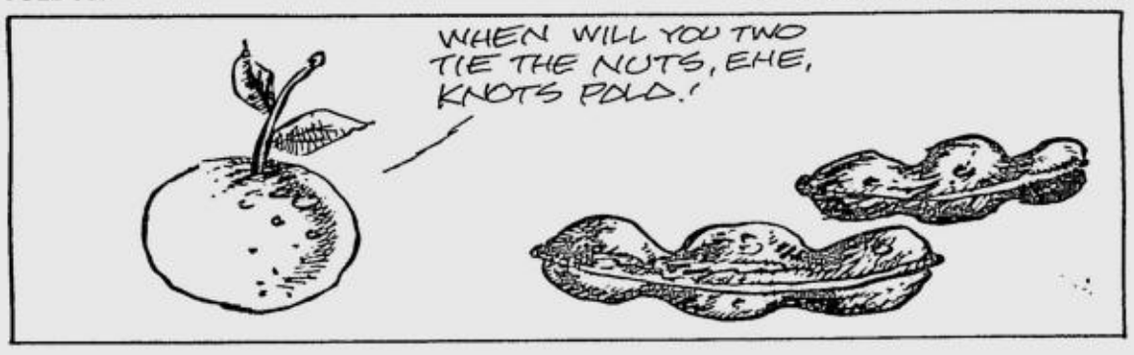
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BIGLANG NAWALAN NG GANA ANG MGA BATA KAY BARNEY NANG NALAMAN NILA NA SYA PALA AY ISANG CARNIVORE

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

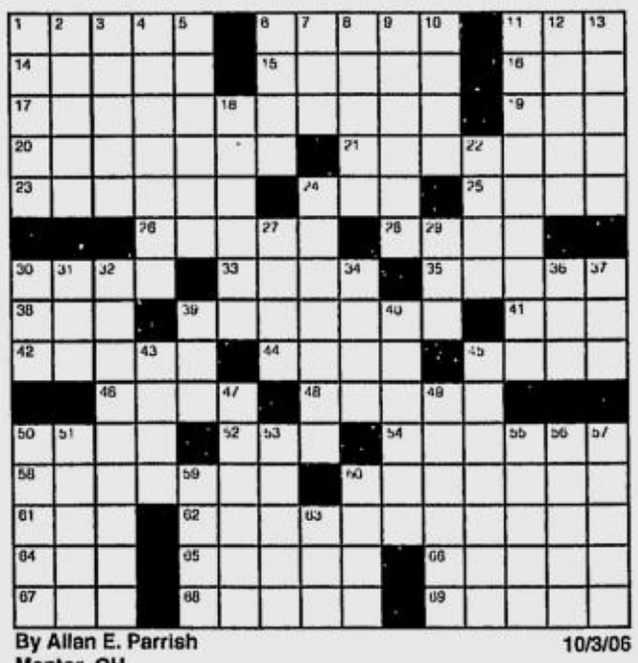


BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Buttress
6 Infield covers
11 Organ of equilibrium
14 Dubuque man
15 Poker statement
16 __-de-France
17 Dress shirt part
19 Roman gods
20 Brings out
21 Floating mountain
23 Take off
24 Curly's cohort
25 Scientologist Hubbard
26 Singer Carter
28 Zoomed
30 Actor Cronyn
33 Magic bullet
35 "Return of the Jedi" critters
38 French friend
39 Watch the kids
41 Humor
42 Mediterranean republic
44 Wise off
45 Ginger cookie
46 Statesman Waldheim
48 Novelist Lofts
50 Thespian group
52 Long period
54 Blake of "Gunsmoke"
58 Gangster "Dutch"
60 Interrogate after a mission
61 Sch. group
62 Investor's option
64 Thumbs up for John Glenn
65 Bogged down
66 January in Leon
67 Map dir.
68 Invite
69 Hamlet and Ophelia

DOWN
1 Two-footed animal
2 Esther of "Good Times"
3 Expect
4 Waterfall
5 Tempt
6 Twitches
7 Sawbones' org.
8 Relative degree
9 Puts
10 Roy Rogers at birth
11 Duck product
12 Olds model
13 Period in power
18 Cornell's town
22 Muffed
24 Gary Collins' Mobley
27 Small lumps
29 Touch tenderly
30 Son of Noah
31 Ms. Thurman
32 Soda fountain treat
34 Old gas
36 Spectra maker
37 Gas additive letters
39 Saloon
40 Middle East nation
43 Ballerina garb
45 The Knack hit, "My __"
47 Falling-blocks game
49 Walked leisurely
50 Senate sessions station
51 Respond to
53 Alabama city
55 "Separate Tables" star
56 Tractor man
57 Bushy dos
59 Capital of Peru
60 Bygone bird
63 Part of IRA



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
10/3/06

Monday's Puzzle Solved

G	I	B	B	■	S	H	E	D	■	M	I	N	I	S
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10/3/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very aware of society, trends and what is popular. You're current in your tastes and very up-to-date about things. You're comfortable playing a role, if necessary. You take your professional life seriously. Family and friends look to you for direction and style. An important choice will arise this year.
Birthdate of: Neve Campbell, actress; Ashlee Simpson, singer/actress; Gwen Stefani, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might feel critical of a friend today, or vice versa—someone might be critical of you. Try not to take this personally. People feel a little bit bummed out today. (No big deal.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Conversations with parents and bosses are strained today. If you make a suggestion, someone is likely to rain on your parade. Therefore, do not expect too much.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might be disappointed about news from afar, or in your dealings with people from another country or culture. (Possibly this is somebody who is just different from you.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Money and possessions concern you today. (Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money?) This is a poor day to decide how to divide or share something.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Relations with partners and close friends are strained today. Cut somebody else some slack. If you're lucky, somebody else will do likewise. What goes around comes around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's easy to fall into bouts of self-criticism today. Don't worry about what other people say. You might hear something that seems to confirm your worst fears about yourself. Relax—it's just the mood of the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Romantic relationships and even relationships with friends are a bit disappointing today. Nothing can be rosy all the time forever. (You know this.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is not the best day to have an important discussion with your boss or parent or any authority figure in your life. People are inclined to discourage each other today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Optimism and physical activity are key to your survival. You need to believe that there is something better around the corner. Avoid negative conversations today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is not an ideal day for shopping or financial matters. Actually, you feel quite frugal today. That's OK. The best distraction now is work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today the Moon is in your sign, making an opposition to stern Saturn. You're concerned with serious issues. (But this doesn't mean you have to be negative.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't second-guess yourself today. For a brief time during the day, it's easy to feel sorry for yourself. Just shrug this off and carry on.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

5	7				6	2	8	
6		8	3	1			9	
7	4				2	6		
		9	6				2	7
	3			7	4	5		8
	6	2	1				4	9

Difficulty Level ★★
10/03

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Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	3	1	8	9	6	2	5
2	5	8	4	6	3	7	1	9
6	1	9	5	2	7	4	3	8
9	2	1	6	5	4	3	8	7
7	3	6	9	1	8	5	4	2
5	8	4	3	7	2	1	9	6
1	4	2	7	9	5	8	6	3
8	6	5	2	3	1	9	7	4
3	9	7	8	4	6	2	5	1

Difficulty Level ★
10/02

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

ROUNDUP

'Discovery Atlas'

"DISCOVERY ATlas," a series that helps viewers explore the world, airs every Sunday at 9 p.m., with a prime-time encore the following Tuesday at 10 p.m.

The goal of the series, according to Discovery Communications Inc. founder and chair John S. Hendricks, is "to create the most complete visual record of the history, civilization, geography, industry, technology and people of the world."

The journey, which began yesterday with "China Revealed," continues with "Italy Revealed" (Oct. 8), "Brazil Revealed" (Oct. 15) and "Australia Revealed" (Oct. 22).

Each episode is narrated by a celebrity like Emmy award-winning actor James Spader and Oscar winner Russell Crowe.

DeVito's comedy

DANNY DEVITO'S latest comedy "Deck the Halls," with Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis and Kristin Chenoweth, is about two families with nothing in common. Their competing plans for Christmas even threaten to destroy the festive season in a cozy New England town.

DeVito's character, who's new to the area, sets out to create the gaudiest, most flamboyant light display for miles around.

But Broderick, the town's "Mr. Christmas," is traditional and conservative and intends to sabotage the efforts of the "tasteless" family across the street.

The 20th Century Fox movie opens soon in local theaters.

Downey as Iron Man

LOS ANGELes—Robert Downey Jr. is to star as cult superhero "Iron Man" in the latest screen adaptation of a Marvel Comics character, it was reported Friday.

Downey will play Tony Stark, a business tycoon and inventor who is kidnapped and forced to build a doomsday weapon. Instead, Stark uses his creative genius to construct an iron suit and escape his captors.

The film is based on the comic series created by Marvel in the 1960s, in which Stark's kidnappers were Viet Cong guerrillas.

The film is the first feature film to be produced independently by Marvel Entertainment. Previously, Marvel had granted outside studios the right to make films based on its other characters including "Spider-Man" and "X-Men." *AFP*

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GALLERIA 832-9116

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • THX 12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
2 FIRST DAY HIGH 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
3 FLY BOYS 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
4 ZOOM 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
5 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
6 POSSESSED BY EVIL 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 DEAD OR ALIVE 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
8 THE BREED 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
9 STEP UP 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

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6 POSSESSED BY EVIL 11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
7 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview

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5 DEAD OR ALIVE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
6 POSSESSED BY EVIL 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
7 FLY BOYS 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
8 STEP UP 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES 436-3231 / 436-3228-30

1 FLY BOYS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-257... **PIONEER** 687-637...

1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 FLY BOYS
2 ZOOM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview

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Twilight Dancers offers a disturbing yet humurous look at Philippine social realities through the eyes of three macho dancers. Dwight, young and at the peak of his trade, loses the girl he loves to a politician's son. Alfred, at 28, is past the prime and is kicked out of the club when the film starts. Bert, 50, has long since given up dancing and is now the bodyguard-driver of a corrupt yet jolly businesswoman, Madame Lpcd.

starring: Cherry Pie Picache, Allen Dizon, Laurice Guillen and Tirso Perez

MTRCB Rating: R-13
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4 FIRST DAY HIGH
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2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 STAY ALIVE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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1 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 ZOOM
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
1 THE WICKER MAN
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 ZOOM

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1 ZOOM
2 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE GUARDIAN Sneak Preview
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 ZOOM

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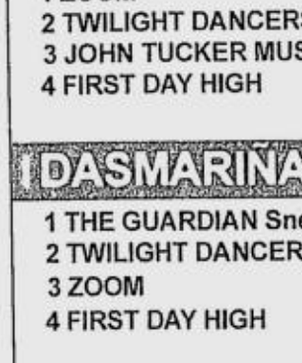
1 THE WICKER MAN
SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 CRANK
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
1 CRANK
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 THE WICKER MAN



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1 FLY BOYS
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 STEP UP
6 INGRATA
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ZOOM
CINEMA 1
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CINEMA 2
ZOOM
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2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 FLY BOYS
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
STEP UP
6 ZOOM
7 DEADOR ALIVE
8 FIRST DAY HIGH
THE GUARDIAN
YOU ARE THE ONE
THE BREED
FLY BOYS

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JOSEPH THE DREAMER
STEP UP
POSSESSED BY EVIL
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WICKER MAN
DEAD OR ALIVE
FIRST DAY HIGH
YOU ARE THE ONE
THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
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STEP UP
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE GUARDIAN
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YOU ARE THE ONE
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MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
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ZOOM
FLY BOYS
STEP UP
FIRST DAY HIGH
WICKER MAN
THE BREED
INGRATA
THE GUARDIAN
CRANK

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
DEAD OR ALIVE
ZOOM
STEP UP
THE BREED
FLY BOYS
FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
ZOOM
DEAD OR ALIVE
POSSESSED BY EVIL
FIRST DAY HIGH
STEP UP
YOU ARE THE ONE
THE GUARDIAN
FLY BOYS
INGRATA

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
ZOOM
FIRST DAY HIGH
FLY BOYS
THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
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STEP UP
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FLY BOYS
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YOU,ME AND DUPREE
ZOOM

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THE GUARDIAN
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FIRST DAY HIGH
THE BREED

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
ZOOM
FLY BOYS
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE GUARDIAN

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SNAKES ON A PLANE

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ZOOM
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
WICKER MAN
THE GUARDIAN
SNAKES ON A PLANE
FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
ZOOM
FIRST DAY HIGH
SNAKES ON A PLANE
THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
DEAD OR ALIVE
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ZOOM
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
INGRATA
FIRST DAY HIGH
WICKER MAN

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
FIRST DAY HIGH
FIRST DAY HIGH
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
YOU,ME AND DUPREE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037681-85
WICKER MAN
ZOOM
YOU ARE THE ONE
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
SCOOP
FIRST DAY HIGH

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JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
SNAKES ON A PLANE
FIRST DAY HIGH
YOU ARE THE ONE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

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SNAKES ON A PLANE
RESERVED
CRANK
FIRST DAY HIGH
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
ZOOM
RESERVED
WICKER MAN

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
SNAKES ON A PLANE
CRANK
FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
ZOOM
SNAKES ON A PLANE
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
FIRST DAY HIGH

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
FIRST DAY HIGH
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
FLY BOYS
DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
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SNAKES ON A PLANE
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
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INGRATA
FIRST DAY HIGH
SNAKES ON A PLANE
WICKER MAN
ZOOM

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
ZOOM
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WICKER MAN
CRANK

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SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR

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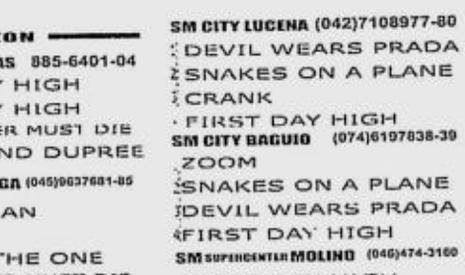

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Another month-long extravaganza from the Germans

By Constantino C. Tejero

APPARENTLY TO GERMANS, 30 DAYS ARE not enough for a month of celebration. This is because what has been billed as German Month runs through September and extends to the middle of October. This particular month consists of 45 days.

Organized by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe-Institut, the German Club of Manila, Fairs & More, and the European International School, the annual celebration which is now on its third year is again bringing "an extravaganza of German culture, films, music, cars, expo and the globally popular Oktoberfest."

This year's theme is "It's more than you think."

Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian, Fairs & More vice president and chief executive officer, says the Philippines and Germany have enjoyed a special relationship over the years, and this celebration is a reaffirmation of that 50-year friendship.

As opening activity on Sept. 8, the 38-member Brassband Altensteig from the Black Forest performed at the Music Hall of the Mall of Asia.

Late this month, the Club Nights tour featured DJane Aroma, voted one of the 50 best international deejays by Tendance Music Magazine.

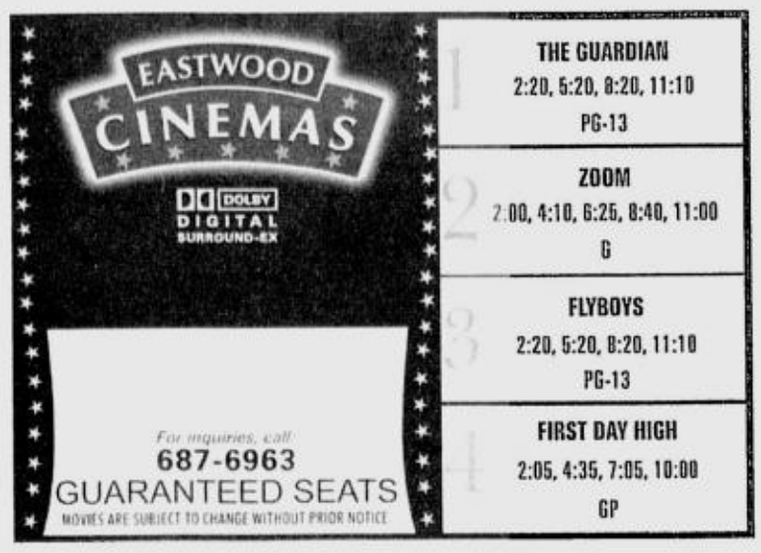
The German turntable whiz brought "her steaming brand of music to Manila's dance floor devotees ... her innovative wall of sounds, brass, snare drums, and catchy little vocal hooks."

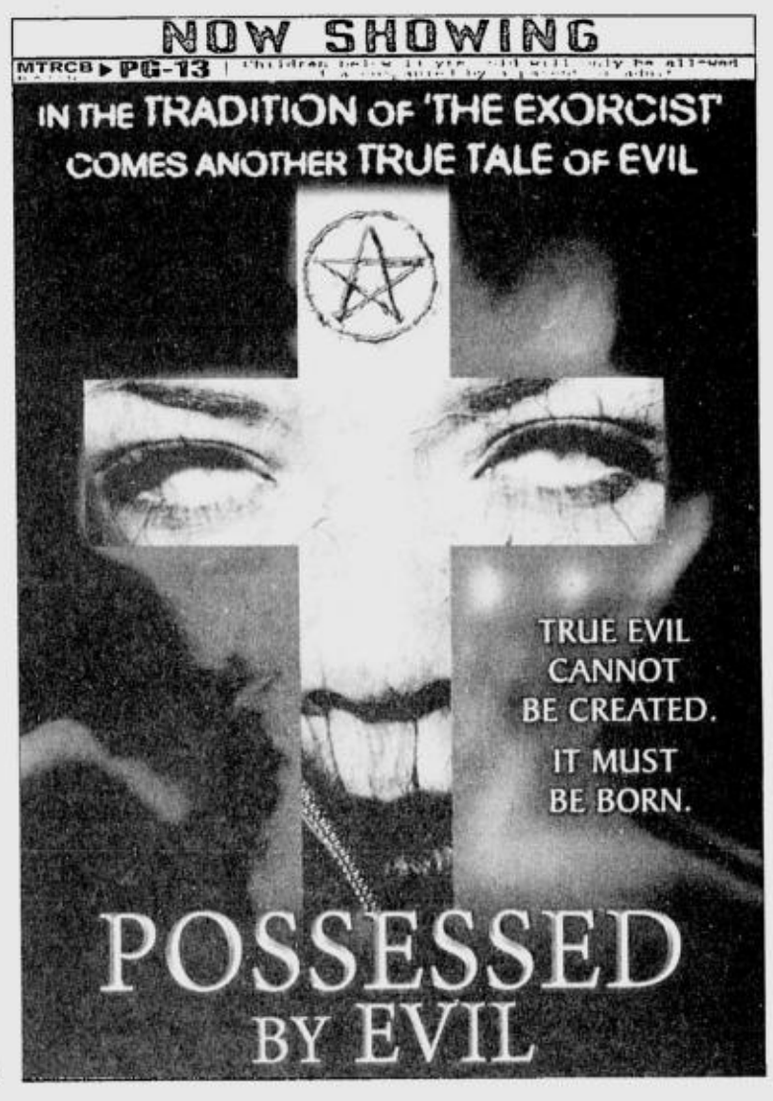
She performed with the Soundsgood Crew at M Café in Greenbelt 3, Makati City, on Sept. 21; and with GP Reyes at The Embassy VIP Room at The Fort on Sept. 23.

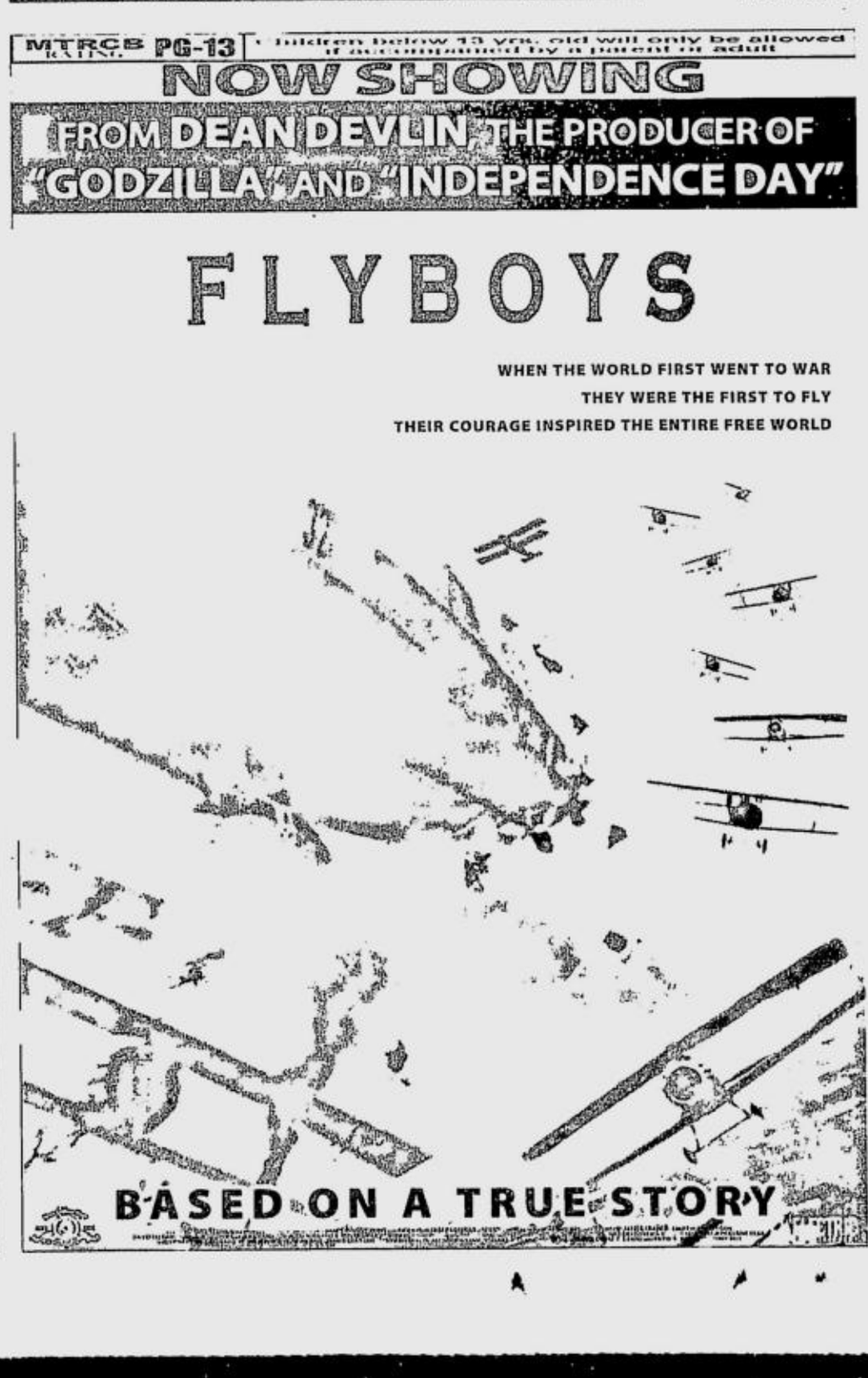
Then, on Sept. 24, she performed in an open-air event called "Chillax with the X-Community," an afternoon of chill and party music at the Manila Zoo. She also conducted free music-production workshops for intermediate and novice turntable enthusiasts.

From Sept. 18 to 24, a football-film series called "The Round in the Square," especially compiled to celebrate the recently concluded Fifa World Cup in Germany, was screened at Goethe-

ANOTHER/ D5







MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Greenbelt Cineplex
1 THE GUARDIAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 (2:00) FLY BOYS
3 (3:00) FIRST DAY HIGH
4 (4:00) STEP UP
PREMIERE
(9:00) ZOOM

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Reces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 ZOOM
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE GUARDIAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

stormall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ZOOM
5 FLY BOYS

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504265, 8433994
1 THE GUARDIAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 ZOOM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

THEATRES
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
FIRST DAY HIGH
CRANK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
SNAKE ON A PLANE
FIRST DAY HIGH
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) STEP UP
2 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) FIRST DAY HIGH
5 THE GUARDIAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6 (DOLBY DIGITAL) ZOOM
7 (DOLBY) FLY BOYS
8 THE BREED
9 POSSESSED BY EVIL
10 FIRST DAY HIGH

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) FIRST DAY HIGH
2 (DOLBY) ZOOM
3 THE GUARDIAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 ZOOM

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK
3 STAY ALIVE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 ZOOM
3 DEAD OR ALIVE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 ZOOM
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) FIRST DAY HIGH
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 (DTS) ZOOM
4 THE WICKER MAN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MIAMI VICE
2 CRANK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 THE GUARDIAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 (DOLBY) FLY BOYS
3 (DOLBY) ZOOM
4 (DOLBY) FIRST DAY HIGH

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 (DTS) FIRST DAY HIGH
3 (DOLBY) ZOOM
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 (DOLBY) ZOOM
3 (DTS) FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 (DOLBY) CRANK

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 (DTS) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Pampanga) tel (045) 795.3320
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 (DOLBY) CRANK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 TAKE MY BODY
2 SCOOP

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 IRA
3 LINGO LANG ANG PAHINGA
4 (DTS) SCOOP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) STORMBREAKER
2 THE GUARDIAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DTS) FIRST DAY HIGH
4 KANGKONG
5 ZOOM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 YOU ME & DUPREE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MIAMI VICE
2 DOS EKIS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Sam and Toni, make up ...

From page D1

versies ago. But that's a closed book now.

Grand finale

Sarah Geronimo (Dorina) and Angelika de la Cruz (Lavinia) duel in the "Clash of the Divas Grand Showdown" on Oct. 6 for the grand finale of "Bituing Walang Ningning." Jollibee and ABS-CBN's "Pasasalamat" concert will also be aired the following day, featuring Sarah, Angelika and the cast plus **Aga Muhlach**, Sam Milby and Mark Bautista. It highlights the *Kapamilya* ties of the two giants. The partnership of a TV network and a fastfood company for a *sineserye* is a first in Philippine television.

Karaoke Boy

First "Pinoy Dream Academy" dropout **Jun Hirano** will bring with him all the tough lessons and wonderful memories he had on "PDA" when he flies back to his native Japan in two weeks' time. Jun is bent on graduating from high school in March. But his passion for music remains burning. It must be the Pinoy blood in him (his mom is Filipina). Who knows? He might be back after graduation to show that he's got the best of both cultures and be known as "Karaoke Boy."

Idol girl

Watering Hole habitués like me had a surprise treat when **Jeli Mateo** (one of the 12 "Philippine Idol" finalists) jammed with the featured band. She used to have regular gigs at W.H. It's good to know that on her way to stardom, she still stops by at the place where it all began for her. Heard that the toughest part of the competition is about to start for all the Idol wannabes. Good luck to all of them! I'm sure so many people are rooting for Jeli and the other aspirants. Count me in as one of these Idol supporters.

E-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com.

Another month-long ...

From page D4

Institut Manila, 5/F, Adamson Center, 121 LP Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

From Oct. 4 to 8, the German Film Festival at the Shangri-La Plaza Cineplex features the German Film Award winner "Go for Zucker!"; the European Film Award winner "Good-bye Lenin!"; the semi-documentary soccer film "The Other Final"; and the high-octane thriller "Soundless."

The climax of this celebration is, of course, Oktoberfest, the world's biggest outdoor festival.

For two nights (Oct. 6 and 7) in Le Pavilion at the Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard, guests can have free-flowing beer; nonstop dancing to oompapa music by the Bavarian Sound Express flown in from Munich; and a lavish buffet of braised beef, meat loaf on creamed spinach, herb-marinated roast chicken, roast pork knuckle with sauerkraut, suckling pig in dark beer sauce, a variety of grilled and boiled sausages, a plenitude of salads and desserts.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

D.O.A.: DEAD OR ALIVE PG13 2:10,4:10,6:10,8:10	ZOOM G 2:10,4:10,6:10,8:10	FLYBOYS PG13 2:00,4:50,7:40,10:30
STEP UP PG13 1:25,3:40,5:55,8:10	FIRST DAY HIGH G 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	THE GUARDIAN PG13 1:35,4:25,7:15,10:05

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 896-1441
MATINEE PHP 111.00 - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM - FREE SEATING - MONDAY-FRIDAY

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY Gateway CINEPLEX 10 DOLBY DIGITAL EX

FLYBOYS 12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30	FIRST DAY HIGH 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	ZOOM 12:55 / 3:05 / 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:35	Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
THE BREED 2:45 / 6:55	DEAD OR ALIVE 1:25 / 3:30 / 5:35 / 7:40 / 9:45	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 12:45 / 4:50 / 9:30	
STEP UP 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	THE GUARDIAN 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40	ZOOM 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

MALL 5

ZOOM 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	FLYBOYS 11:40 / 2:40 / 5:40 / 8:40	DEAD OR ALIVE 12:20 / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 / 8:40
POSSESSED BY EVIL 1:00 / 3:25 / 5:50 / 8:20	FIRST DAY HIGH 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For more information, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net

THE GUARDIAN
WATCH THE ADVANCE SCREENING TODAY AT GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
OPENS OCTOBER 11 - MTRCB RATING: PG-13

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
UNDERCOVER
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO
The Departed

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san fernando, pampanga
october 2 & 3
mtrcb rating: PG13
REGULAR Showing: October 11
THE GUARDIAN
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SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
KEVIN COSTNER ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"
OCTOBER 2 (Mon.) & 3 (Tue.)
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GLORIETTA 1 • ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
Regular run begins Oct. 11 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
Glorietta GREENBELT TOWN MARKET!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2006

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

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Uninvited

HOW ACCURATE IS THE IMPRESSION that a certain TV network has made it a corporate policy not to allow stars from a rival station to guest on any of its shows, thus, barring them from promoting current projects?

Latest victims of this wholesale ban are two action stars.

Ironically, Action Star No. 1's son is now employed by the network in question.

Moreover, Action Star No. 2, who now has a movie produced by the competitor, was once a prized talent of the forgetful network.

RUSHES

Botox before 30

Good thing she's often required by her TV and movie roles to look maudlin.

If you don't see this young drama queen smiling these days, blame an overdose on Botox injections.

The treatments were meant to erase fine lines caused by being a chain-smoker, a source alleged.

Contrary to her martyr roles, she huffs and puffs when stressed out.

From Bong to Bosing

Gretchen Barretto seems bent on erasing her "ST image" and packaging herself as a wholesome star.

She insists that her dream co-star is Vic Sotto in a fantasy flick, preferably an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Why not Bong?

Boy on Zsazsa

Boy Abunda, host of "The Buzz," says he doesn't understand why Zsazsa Padilla was irked by his show's report on her weight loss.

"There was no malicious intent and there was no unequivocal declaration that she was anorexic. I haven't called her because I wouldn't know what to ask," Boy told INQUIRER Entertainment last Saturday.

Brava, Gina!

Cameron Bailey, programmer of the recently concluded Toronto International Film Festival, showered Gina Pareño, star of "Kubrador," with praise, comparing her with Oscar-nominated Brazilian actress Fernanda Montenegro of "Central Station" fame: "Director Jeffrey Jeturian's greatest asset is Pareño... she builds a deeply affecting portrait of a woman governed equally by necessary strength and overpowering emotion. She has a forceful physical presence, remarkable delicacy and nuance of expression... a revelation."

But, *we* knew that all along, right?

GINA Pareño

Sister act

A filmmaker reportedly rejected a teen star because she was way too young for the part, which required acting lascivious in a motel. (Minors are not allowed in such establishments, you see.)

A well-intentioned colleague recommended the teen star's older sister for the role. She was also given the thumbs-down because she was way too mature to look convincing as a virgin.

"She looks like a mother of five *daw*," quipped the director's groupie.

Record breakers

LONDON—Madonna's pay-packet, Janet Jackson's malfunctioning wardrobe, Hillary Clinton's memoirs and Sigourney Weaver's height all have one thing in common—they're world record breakers.

Veteran pop singer Madonna supplants younger rival Britney Spears in the latest edition of Guinness World Records, winning the title of highest annual earnings by a female singer after she took home an estimated $50 million in 2004.

Despite the relentless media coverage of her personal life, Spears is also unseated by another 40-something as the world's most searched-for person and most searched-for news item on the Internet.

MADONNA

She loses those top spots to pop diva Janet Jackson who also gets credit for the largest ever fine imposed on a broadcaster after one of her breasts was exposed live on air.

In the world of publishing, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton holds the title for fastest-selling non-fiction book after her memoirs sold 200,000 copies on day one.

At 6 feet (1.82 meters), Hollywood's tallest leading women are "Alien" star Sigourney Weaver, Brigitte Neilsen and Oscar-winner Geena Davis, who also starred in the world's biggest ever box-office flop, "Cutthroat Island." *Reuters*

Images on my TV screen

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

KENNETH PAUL "YOVA" ALONZO was the rightful winner of "Philippine Idol's" Kakaibang Idol award on Sept. 24. It was really no contest, as the winner's unique combination of exceptional singing voice and edgy gender-bending thrilled viewer-voters.

Yova is one talent who can make it in show biz without becoming an "Idol" finalist—if he and his handlers play his cards right. Other non-finalist winners in our book include **Ira Marasigan** and **Ramirr**.

The fact that they didn't make it to the finals doesn't negate their star potential. It could simply be due to the immense, organized power of other singers' "vote-generating machines."

For instance, insiders talk about a singer's folks who "invested" a huge amount to keep their best bet in the running for the top "Idol" crown.

And an arts colleague of ours confessed that he personally text-voted for his best bet 500 times in only two days! How supportive can you get?

The downside to his story is that his bet still lost—by only 500 votes. Which is why we jokingly chided him for not going all the way and text-voting for his favorite singer 1,100 times instead of only 500, to assure his bet's inclusion in the finals.

So, you can understand why we don't believe that text-votes determine a contestant's popularity—it mainly affirms the determination and deep pockets of his supporters.

On "Pop Star Kids," we remember writing about an early standout, Rita Iringan, and describing her as a real find. Shortly thereafter, at Rico Puno's Coriks bar, a stranger introduced himself to us as Rita's dad, and expressed his family's gratitude for the positive word. He also informed us that Rita's grandfather was no less than the veteran comedian, Teroy de Guzman.

Well, fast-forward a number of months, and Rita is now the top winner of the "Pop Star Kids" talent tilt. Do we deserve a pat? It turns out that we spotted a potential winner early on. Congratulations all around!

From 'Kairo' to 'Pulse'

KRISTEN Bell and **Ian Somerhalder** star in "Pulse," a chilling thriller directed by **Jim Sonzero** and based on the Japanese movie, "Kairo," written and directed by **Kiyoshi Kurosawa**.

"Pulse" revolves around teenagers who investigate a series of suicides linked to an Internet web cam that promises visitors the chance to interact with the dead.

'Pinoy Dream Academy'

VIEWERS can now watch "Pinoy Dream Academy" 24 hours a day on SkyCable (631-0000), through the Pinoy Dream Academy 24x7 channel. In the reality challenge, 20 talented young Filipinos battle it out for survival and top honors.

Beyoncé

POP superstar **Beyoncé** released her new solo CD, "B'Day," in time for her 25th birthday. The studio album premieres new songs co-produced, written and arranged by Beyoncé.

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AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

THX

G1	1 THE GUARDIAN	2 FLYBOYS	3 FIRST DAY HIGH	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE
G4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 STEP-UP	5 ZOOM	6 THE GUARDIAN	7 FIRST DAY HIGH
GB1	1 FLYBOYS		2 THE GUARDIAN	
GB3	1 THX FLYBOYS 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE GUARDIAN 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ZOOM 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX THE GUARDIAN GUARANTEED SEATS		2 FLYBOYS	
	3 FIRST DAY HIGH	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	5 STEP-UP	
ACC	1 FLYBOYS	2 ZOOM	3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	4 FIRST DAY HIGH
M2	1 THE GUARDIAN		2 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	
	3 STEP-UP	4 FLYBOYS	5 ZOOM	

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

OPENS TOMORROW

GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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Pavilion Mall
November 26, Sunday
Bridgeway, 4pm

Glorietta
December 1, Friday
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